The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXX, No. 9 | MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

J-Term registration leaves nearly 100 upperclassmen without a course

By LAUREN THOMSON
Contributing Writer

An estimated 963 upperclassmen not involved in independent work attempted to register for 875 available seats on the final day of J-Term registration this year — leaving almost 100 students without a 2022 winter term class.

During J-Term, in which students take a single course for the month of January, courses often tackle academic subjects outside of the college's typical offerings. Upperclassmen are also able to use the time to undertake internships or engage with independent research. While upperclassmen register first for fall and spring term courses, first years and sophomores register earlier for J-Term courses — leaving many juniors, seniors and upperclassmen Febs without a class for this winter.

According to Dean of Curriculum Grace Spatafora, the difficulty surrounding J-Term registration this year stems from unprecedented pandemic-related challenges to how a typical J-Term is organized. In J-Term, a large number of classes are taught by visiting professors, who have been harder to recruit to teach in person due to the changing conditions of the pandemic.

"As a fallout from the pandemic, the housing market is very limited right now and it has impacted our ability to secure contracts from our visiting instructors from away," Spatafora said. "That has had an impact on the courses we have been able to offer our students this J-Term."

Additionally, a larger-than-usual number of upperclassmen students are on campus this semester due to decreased study abroad opportunities and a large number of students who previously took time off during the pandemic, exacerbating the shortage.

Despite the complications, Spatafora said that both professors and the administration are trying to accommodate and help the students who are not currently placed in a class but wish to be. Spatafora is hoping to add up to four new courses — including one in environmental studies and two in Jewish studies — to the J-Term course list. Students will be able to register for these new classes during the add period, which began on Nov. 17. Spatafora also said that some teachers have been expanding their classes and admitting students from their waitlists, though this remains up to the discretion of professors.

By the time Lizzie Kenter '23, an economics and computer science double major, was able to log into Banner 9 when registration opened, the courses she was planning to take were already filled. Kenter was

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK: HAPPY VALLEY APPLES

By JONATHAN CARROLL-MADDEN '24

LOCAL

AFTER A HISTORIC TENURE, VERMONT SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY ANNOUNCES HE WILL NOT RUN FOR RE-ELECTION IN 2022

By THE LOCAL DESK

On Monday, Nov. 15, Vermont Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy announced that he will not run for reelection at the end of his current term. Having served in this capacity since 1975, following his election at 34 in 1974, Leahy is the longest-serving member of the U.S. Senate still in office and would have bid for election to his ninth term in 2022.

At 81, Leahy is also the fourth longest-serving senator in U.S. history. By ao tradition that has not been disrupted in nearly three quarters of a century, this seniority – coupled with his membership in the majority party – make him Senate president pro tempore, meaning that he is third in the line of presidential succession.

At the time of his election, Leahy was the first Democratic candidate to assume the office of Vermont State Senator, and he remains the only Democratic candidate to have done so. During his incumbency, Leahy has served as chairperson of the Agriculture, Appropriations and Judiciary committees, and early in his career, he worked on legislation supporting marriage equality and healthcare reforms.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Faculty reinstate Credit/ No-Credit and extend drop deadline

By LILY JONES
Online Editor

Content warning: This article contains mentions of suicide.

The Registrar's Office informed the student body that the faculty voted to reinstate the Credit/No-Credit grading option for the fall 2021 semester in an email sent Nov. 15. Faculty also voted to extend the drop deadline until Dec. 10, the last day of classes.

The college traditionally allows students to invoke a Pass/D/Fail option for two courses during their time at Middlebury, but in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, instituted a Credit/No-Credit option in April 2020. The opt-in system of Credit/ No-Credit was extended in Oct. 2020 for the 2020-21 academic year.

Classes taken under the normal Pass/D/Fail system cannot be used to satisfy major, minor or distribution requirements; classes taken on a Credit/No Credit basis, on the other hand, can satisfy these requirements.

The reinstatement is in response to increased stress among students, specifically due to the ongoing pandemic and the recent student suicide on campus.

"We had been hearing from student life deans as well as our own students, that students are under extreme stress and anxiety," said Geology Professor Will Amidon, who serves on the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC). The Student Government Association also approached the EAC with the idea.

The policy was proposed by the EAC and went on to pass the faculty vote by a slim margin. There was a debate about extending the deadline for students to invoke the Pass/D/Fail grading option, which passed on Oct. 8, instead of reinstating Credit/ No-Credit.

"Many faculty feel that grade inflation is a problem at Middlebury and the CR/ NCR policy is exacerbating that problem," Amidon said.

Because of the reinstatement of the Credit/No-Credit policy, Pass/D/ Fail will no longer be an option this semester. Students already taking a Pass/D/Fail class were notified that their course had been switched to a Credit/No-Credit grading system.

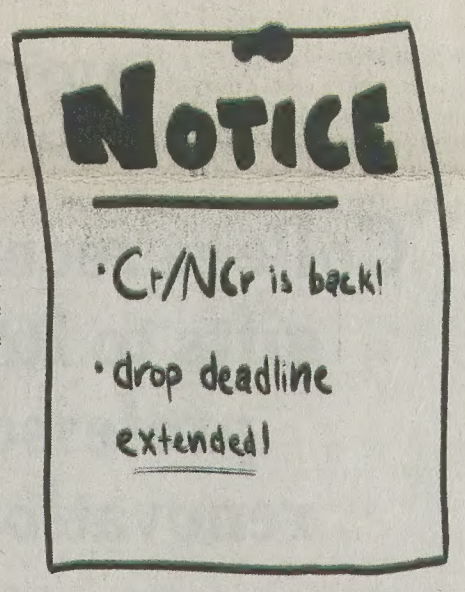
Overall, Amidon thinks that there is a larger issue to be addressed surrounding student mental health in academics.

"There are many, many students who are genuinely in distress and in need of help, and it's the compassionate thing to do to give people these safety valves," Amidon said.

He hopes that enacting the policy so late in the semester helps those who really need it.

"I think it's a way to help students who are really in trouble, and the students at the top of their game, it doesn't directly affect them," Amidon said.

While extending the policy into the spring semester was discussed, faculty in favor of the policy wanted to act quickly in order to have a meaningful effect on student mental health, and proposing the policy for the spring semester would potentially make it a longer discussion. Faculty also want to wait to see what the spring semester looks like regarding the state of the pandemic before making the decision on whether or not to extend the option.



SABRINA TEMPLETON

Faculty and staff to receive $1500 bonus, two new vacation days

By KATIE FUTTERMAN
Staff Writer

All Middlebury faculty and staff will receive two extra vacation days and a $1,500 bonus this December, according to an email from the Vice President for Human Resources to all staff and faculty.

The announcement came as a surprise, said Landscape Horticulturist and Staff Council member Tim Parsons in an email to The Campus. Staff Council was not informed prior to the announcement.

The Vice President for Human Resources sent out an email on Wednesday, Nov. 10, to all faculty and staff, thanking them for their hard work and acknowledging the difficulty of the present times. At the end of a thank you poem lay the words "Actions Matter," and the announcement of vacation days on Nov. 24 and Dec. 23, as well as the $1,500 bonus. Only benefits-eligible employees who have worked at the college since July 1 will get the bonus and days. Staff who started at the college after July 1 will not be eligible for the bonus.

For frontline workers in the holiday season, a bonus of this size "borders on life-altering," Parsons said.

The announcement also said that the "small but mighty team" that needs to work on the given vacation days could choose two other days that worked for the

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SOCIAL HOUSES WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AS GATHERING RESTRICTIONS LOOSEN

By BEN WAGNER
Contributing Writer

With both academic and social events returning to in-person meetings this fall, some social houses have seen an uptick in new member interest.

The five social houses — Chromatic, the Mill, PALANA, Tavern and Xenia — recruit members through different processes during the year, integrating interested students into the existing community. Following semesters of restricted social gatherings, several houses have noticed an increased demand for opportunities to connect through house events.

"We definitely have a large uptick in [new members] this year which has been awesome and we are all very excited about that and about opening our community more broadly," said Arlo Fleisher '21.5, president of the Mill, in an email to The Campus.

Social houses like Tavern provide an opportunity for students of similar interests to meet in a comfortable setting, according to Tavern President Henry Ganey '22.

Tavern, known officially as Omega Alpha and to many Middlebury students as simply "Tav," aims to form friendships through its new member recruitment process.

"It can feel like you're just kind of shoehorned into one group, based on where you lived," Ganey said. "I think social houses give you the opportunity to meet people from outside of those groups who still have similar interests to you that you wouldn't have met otherwise,"

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDON MORALES
Social houses like Tavern (pictured here) offer opportunities for students to meet outside of academic settings and first-year residential halls, and have seen increased interest this semester.

According to Katya Juarez '24, who joined Tavern this semester, the organization looks to foster friendships within new member classes, making them communities rather than random groups of people.

"There have been moments where people become vulnerable and allow the whole group in," Juarez said.

Juarez said she enjoys being able to casually hang out with other new members — as well as older members — in Tavern's lounge and be welcomed into the community's existing friend groups.

Tavern, in addition to being a social and living space, also engages its members in community service— all members are required to complete five hours of service per semester, according to the Omega Alpha constitution. Tav tends to have a large group of new members each semester — somewhere between 40 and 80 people, according to Ganey.

"It seems like many students enjoy and appreciate their experience with social houses and build strong connections with people they met through those organizations," Associate Dean for Student Life AJ Place and Director of Student Activities Amanda Reinhardt said in an email to The Campus.

Xenia, the substance-free and low-use residence located in Bowker House, houses only six residents; currently, all are sophomores.

In the past, Xenia has focused on alternative social events to foster a substance-free lifestyle and community. President Abraham Merino '24 said that the substance-free rule only applies within Xenia house — members are free to consume when they are outside of the house. Merino noted that the lack of substances makes the house a cleaner and more relaxed social and living environment.

Merino said he found his first year difficult, which inspired him to join Xenia."I felt like I was one of the only people who didn't want to drink," he said.

Xenia's welcoming and relaxed living environment was a major motivation to live there for Merino.

"It's kind of hard to escape [other students] partying." Merino said. But at Xenia, "If you want to wake up early on the weekend, you can probably do that."

As student social activities increasingly come to resemble pre-pandemic campus culture, many underclassmen are joining social houses to expand their social circles and find new communities on campus. For many, that has meant joining social houses, where they can form friendships beyond their class year, something that was difficult under pandemic restrictions last year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

College receives two $10 million gifts to fund Black Studies professorship, Johnson renovations, new museum

By WILLIAM REED
Contributing Writer

Middlebury received two $10 million gifts earlier this year, announced following the annual October Board of Trustees meeting. The first gift, from Ted '83 and Kathy O'Connor Truscott '83, will create an endowed professorship in Black Studies, an interdisciplinary program on campus, and will also fund more undergraduate and graduate financial aid. The second gift the college received was given by an anonymous donor to renovate the Christian A. Johnson Memorial Building, where the college's Architectural Studies program and Department of Studio Art are located.

The college will use part of the Truscott gift to hire a leading scholar for the Black Studies program, which was created in 2019, to help promote research and student engagement within the new department.

The professorship will be named in honor of Trustee Emerita Deborah Thomas '75, a lecturer at Yale University's Department of African American Studies.

The anonymous gift will be used, in part, to pay for substantial renovations to the Johnson Memorial Building following more than half a century of use. Associate Professor of Architecture John McLeod is heading the design team, with prospective renovations commencing next summer.

The anonymous gift will also help fund the planning of the new college museum that will be located near Johnson and Wright Theatre, where Battell Hall currently sits. The eventual replacement of Battell Hall with the relocated college museum will form an arts quadrangle with Johnson and Wright Memorial Theatre, while the current Battell Hall will be replaced with a new residence hall to be constructed across the beach from Forest Hall starting in one to three years.

In the October Board of Trustees meeting, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration David Provost spoke to the Board about the residence hall and plans for a new student center, which the college plans to build where Proctor Dining Hall currently sits. It will be home to student organizations and offices ranging from Student Financial Services to Student Activities. The center will include a new dining hall that will replace Proctor. The tennis courts currently adjacent to Proctor will be moved to the athletic facilities on South Main Street.

"[The new student center] will require a major fundraising effort," Provost said in an email to The Campus. Provost also said that the project is in the planning phase and will not begin for three to five years.

Faculty and staff to receive $1500 bonus, two new vacation days

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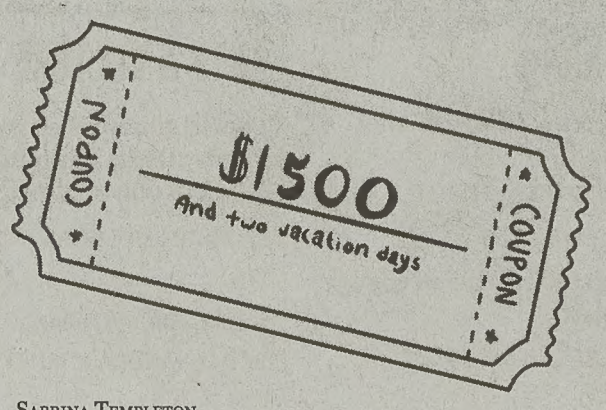
team.

"There is a tight turnaround from when students leave, when our holiday break starts, and when students return to campus, and two extra days of vacation makes all those tasks that need to be done in that time a little more compressed, but a little extra work to spend additional time with friends and family makes it well worth it," Parsons said.



SABRINA TEMPLETON

J-TERM REGISTRATION LEAVES NEARLY 100 UPPERCLASSMEN WITHOUT A COURSE

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prepared for registration with a list of classes she wanted to take, but a five-minute delay while trying to access Banner 9 barred her from registering for her preferred and back-up classes due to high demand. This was especially disappointing for Kenter because, as a double major, she was depending on this J-Term to take a class that fulfilled a distribution requirement.

"This semester I'm only taking stuff for my major, so I was planning on taking distribution requirements, which there actually are a good amount of during J-term. I was literally just looking into any of those, and even then I didn't have any options," Kenter said.

For the spring 2020 semester, the college introduced Banner 9, a new platform to host course registration. During the fall of this year, with a larger than normal number of first years registering for classes, the college divided the class into two registration groups to avoid overwhelming the software. On the other hand, upperclassmen — including the classes of 2023, 2023.5, 2022, 2022.5 and and 2021.5 — registered at the same 7 a.m. time slot for J-Term classes.

Many students, like Kenter, faced delays and glitches while attempting to register for courses that made it even more difficult to get the precious few remaining spaces in their desired class — or any class.

Additionally, Spatafora noted that in previous years it has been more common for upperclassmen to do internships off campus instead of registering for classes. Last year, J-Term was fully remote.

For some students, the social constraints of the last few semesters have led to a greater desire to be on campus this winter.

"I didn't take any time off, and a lot of my friends took time off, so I definitely want to be on campus when my friends are on campus," Kenter said.

Max Cluss '23, also tried and was unable to register for any classes. After failing to get into any of the six classes he had hoped to join and spending an hour on Banner 9 searching for any course with available seats, Cluss signed up for 10 waitlists. He remains unregistered for a class.

Kenter, similarly, is currently on six waitlists. Both have been actively emailing teachers and currently hope to get into a class by showing up to the first day of classes during the first week of J-Term.

Some teachers understand the difficulties that J-Term registration poses for upperclassmen in an average year, let alone this one. Every J-Term, men's golf coach Bill Beaney teaches a course titled "Coaching and Issues in Sports." Beaney restricts this course to upperclassmen each year he teaches it, prioritizing their mental and academic needs at this time in their college career.

"It's become a class where students are able to reflect on their experiences here, talk about their futures and what might be in front of them," Beaney said. "It's to help students at that time in their college experience catch their breath and figure out what's important to them. It's just to really help them take their experiences here and compartmentalize them."

The beginning of the J-Term add period on Nov. 17 and the addition of four new J-Term classes will switch some students in and out of their current courses, potentially opening up spaces for students on waitlists. But there is no guarantee that this will be enough for every student to find a space. Students who do not take a J-Term course will not lose their current housing assignment, so long as they are enrolled as an in-person learner for the fall and spring semesters, according to Dean of Students Derek Doucet.

Courtesy Photo

In clockwise order, starting top left: Taylor Small, Molly Gray, Ruth Hardy, Rebecca White, Jill Krowinski, Kesha Ram, Esther Thomas and Becca Balint.

Women in U.S. electoral politics class hosts panel of Vermont legislators

By ORLY BERKE
Contributing Writer

Visiting professor and Vermont State Senator Ruth Hardy (D-Addison) organized a panel of eight women in Vermont politics to share their experiences and wisdom with the Middlebury community on Nov. 2.

The panel included Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray, President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate Becca Balint (D-Windham), Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives Jill Krowinski (D-Chittenden), Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale (D-Chittenden), Representative Taylor Small (D-Chittenden), Representative Rebecca White (D-Windsor) and Middlebury Selectboard member Esther Thomas.

Hardy's Women in U.S. Electoral Politics class prepared questions for each of the women on a variety of topics, including their decision to run for office, their policy priorities and how their own personal identities shape their politics.

Krowinski explained how her previous work experience with organizations such as Planned Parenthood prepared her to handle controversial topics as well as how to create a safe space for people to have intimate conversations. White spoke about her own experience running for office for the first time, at age 20, with the expectation that she would lose because of her age.

Gray discussed Vermont's history of split party elections, and how she, as a Democrat, developed trust with Vermont's Republican governor, Phil Scott, by prioritizing open communication while asserting her own power and responsibilities rather than fighting an individual battle.

Thomas, who also serves as a residence director at the college, spoke about the challenges of advocating for the town of Middlebury while working at the college. After, Small spoke about her job representing the most diverse community in Vermont as a white woman, as well as her personal experience as the state's first transgender legislator. Balint, the first openly gay woman to hold her position in the Senate, followed up with how she has managed to remain positive and optimistic through what is a difficult time to be in office.

Hinsdale finished the panel by discussing how she navigates being the only woman of color in the Vermont Senate — specifically how assumptions of her ethnicity by others have assigned responsibility to her for certain issues.

Hardy, who previously worked in the college budget office, decided to create a Women in U.S. Electoral Politics class based on her work as executive director of Emerge Vermont, an organization that trains women to run for public office. Hardy designed the women in politics panel to provide examples of impressive female leaders in the Vermont government.

"Part of training women to run is to be able to see women who've run and been successful in politics," Hardy said.

When Hardy isn't in her Axinn classroom, she can be found working in the legislature in Montpelier. Because the college is part of the senator's district, she said it is helpful for her to walk into a room twice a week and hear from her own constituents as it helps her be in touch with the Middlebury College community.

"One of the most important parts of teaching the class is the ability to be grounded in what actually is going on with people in my district," Hardy said.

Hinsdale also spoke about the importance of listening to the community by emphasizing how paramount local government is. She also emphasized the importance of creating more seats at the table, so people have the room to advocate for themselves and be advocates for others.

"Lead where you want to be buried," Hinsdale said. "Where do you want to make a difference? Where do you want people to remember you and the impact that you had?"

Hinsdale, Gray and Balint have each previously expressed interest in running for a Congressional seat should one arise, sparking speculation this week after Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) announced his retirement after nearly 50 years in office. Vermont has never sent a woman to Congress.

Editor's Note: Ruth Hardy is married to Middlebury College Professor of Film and Media Culture Jason Mittell, who is the Campus' academic advisor.

ACORN MEETS VIRTUALLY FOR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS PANEL

By MAYA HEIKKINEN
Copy Editor

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) hosted its annual meeting, where four women from across the Champlain Valley's food system discussed food insecurity, food service work and activism within the local food system in a virtual panel moderated by Lindsey Berk, the executive director of ACORN.

Berk began with a land acknowledgement, and then introduced ACORN — a networking organization incorporated as a nonprofit in 2009 and run by an eight-member volunteer board. Its mission is "to promote the growth and health of local food and agriculture in Vermont's Champlain Valley by providing support to our farmers and food producers, engaging in food education and ensuring access to healthy food for all members of our community," according to ACORN's website.

"We have served as a catalyst and incubator for new initiatives, and pride ourselves on our ability to be flexible and adapt to the current needs of the local food system," said Berk at the meeting. In 2021, ACORN ran programs including the Eat Local Vermont Mobile App, the Local Food and Farm Guide, Tour de Farms, Online Wholesale Market, Addison County Farmacy, Cultivating Connections Newsletter, Farm to School and Statehouse to Farmhouse.

Due to global supply chain shortages, bare shelves can be seen even at local markets such as the Middlebury Co-Op. According to Berk, these shortages mean that collaboration within the local food system is more important than ever before.

"The Co-Op staff is working around the clock to source items from new producers, in an effort to fill these gaps, but between buying criteria assessments, price assessments, entering new items into a [...] system, generating tags for shelves, procuring orders, receiving, and stocking, onboarding new items is a lengthy process," Berk said. "At the end of the day, we need to be sourcing from smaller distributors and independent producers, shortening our supply chains wherever we can."

> "We have served as a catalyst and incubator for new initiatives"

Following Berk's speech, the panelists began to highlight aspects of their work within the food system that are often overlooked.

Pauline Stevens, a second generation farmer at the Golden Russet Farm in Shoreham, explained that the seasonality of farming means that more work happens behind the scenes than people realize. "After [Thanksgiving], we're busy planning for the next season, so that includes buying seeds, meeting with our wholesale accounts where we sell things, creating our seeding and planting charts, hiring people for the next season, we're still delivering to places like the Co-op twice a week," Stevens said.

Samantha Langevin, head chef at American Flatbread and a board member of the Middlebury Co-Op, and Laura La Vacca, food services director for Addison Central School District, highlighted the importance of remembering that jobs in food service are real, complex and demanding, particularly in school nutrition programs.

"Whether you're washing dishes, or running a kitchen, those can be extremely and equally complex, and physically and mentally demanding jobs," Langevin said. "Within [our food system], what are the jobs that we don't think about, or the jobs that are faceless, and I think that also includes people working in food service and hospitality."

La Vacca stated that, during the pandemic, "the people who were most accustomed to dealing with and mitigating the transmission of disease were our school nutrition professionals." She added that the tendency for people not to see the humanity of food service workers has ramifications for how they are valued and paid, which is especially relevant in Vermont, where seasonal tourism is coupled with a current labor shortage.

Anna Freund, local foods coordinator at HOPE, explained that food insecurity is more complex than just financial insecurity. "Some of the people we serve may not have a kitchen. They may live in a hotel, they may be homeless, they may have a family and have a beautiful kitchen, but not a budget to buy the food they want to provide for their families," Freund said. "And so, thinking about how we help to meet all of those needs is an interesting challenge."

Despite the many challenges posed, the pandemic has also created opportunities for growth and improvement across the local food system. American Flatbread was able to implement renovations during a two-month period of closure, as well as shift the way they pay their employees upon reopening. "We substantially raised wages for every position in the kitchen, so that we no longer have tipped employees, which are employees like servers who are paid below minimum wage with the expectation that tips from customers will make up the difference," Langevin said.

> "...[Covid-19] has presented opportunities for collaboration and creativity, to find ways to support one another"

According to La Vacca, the pandemic has also quickened progress in the ongoing movement for universal school meals. "With the onset of the pandemic, school meals are completely funded at the moment through the USDA, through a couple of different funding umbrellas," La Vacca said.

The necessity of home delivery of food caused by the pandemic also created opportunities for providing support to the vulnerable during times of isolation, through the creation of food service delivery routes. "I think we've all learned how detrimental isolation from one another is, and [Covid-19] has presented opportunities for collaboration and creativity, to find ways to support one another," Freund said.

Despite strong collaboration between the farming, restaurant and consumer sectors of the local food system, the panelists pointed out that there is still room for improvement. Langevin noted that restaurants can be further incentivized to purchase local foods and partner with schools. "We're so used to being in our little separate boxes, but we don't necessarily have to be," she said.

La Vacca and Freund reiterated the need for real conversations that center around the humanity of food service workers and destigmatize the factors that contribute to food insecurity. "It begins in this conversation, and every conversation that we have beyond this meeting, when we talk to our coworkers, our colleagues, our friends and our neighbors," La Vacca said.

The panelists also discussed inclusivity, and the need for culturally appropriate foods. Knowing who lives in the local community, including migrant workers, and being more inclusive of these groups when serving local food needs is key, they said. "You also have to make the minority populations more visible, and integrated into the community," Langevin said.

Freund said she believes that this could be facilitated by organizations working together and the compilation of contact information via healthcare. "Communication is huge, [along with] community building," she said.

JUICE AMOUR REOPENS ON MERCHANT'S ROW

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Local Editor

MAGGIE REYNOLDS/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The "Acai Bowl" with granola, banana, blueberries, cacao nibs and almond butter.

MAGGIE REYNOLDS/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The inside of the new Juice Amour location at 16 Merchant's Row in Middlebury.

A local juice shop recently moved locations from Route 7 South to the centrally located Merchant's Row in downtown Middlebury. On Oct. 15, Juice Amour opened its doors at the new location. The Route 7 South location had been open since 2016.

Early this past summer, Juice Amour's management team, including owners Sheri and Dave Bedard, and manager Brooke Lossmann began looking into a new location closer to the college, Lossman said.

"[Our main priority was] getting closer to the college and college students, and being able to have the kids walk to us was super important," she said.

The team began doing renovations on the space in Aug. 2021, which took until the day of the grand opening to complete. These refurbishments included painting the space, bringing in tables, adding a bathroom, and making some other "finer touches," Lossman said.

According to Lossman, their goal with the renovations was to "make a space for people to be able to hang out and chill out."

Though the store's menu largely remained the same with the location change, a new menu is currently in the works, with a soft-release date after Thanksgiving. As the name Juice "and-more" would suggest, they are hoping to introduce more savory items, such as biscuits and gravy, Lossman said.

Everything on the menu is vegan, made in-house, and organically sourced from Black River Produce. According to the store's website, the most popular menu items include a "Berry Monkey" smoothie, "Late Riser" tacos, "The Daily Green Machine" Juice, and a chia seed and oats combo, named the "Classic Warm Belly Jar."

Another change that has come with the new location is an expansion from two to three staff members to seven to nine members.

"It's been amazing," Lossman said. "We have almost three times the amount of business. Having the college kids be able to come in and work on their computers has been awesome."

In addition to the Middlebury location, Sheri and David Bedard also own a sister Juice Amour store located on St. Paul Street in Burlington. Lossman described that location as "a lot smaller and quainter."

According to Jasmine Deolio, manager of the Burlington store, the Burlington location, "tends to be a pretty come in, grab and go situation." The shop typically attracts quite a few students from Champlain College, as it is located directly below Champlain College housing, Deolio added.

The two locations have virtually the same menu, though Middlebury's Juice Amour has a couple of extra goodies in their cooler, Deolio said. The Burlington store opened about two years after its Middlebury counterpart, in February 2019, and has just three staff members.

Deolio said she, the Bedards and Lossman communicate multiple times a week about coordinating produce, helping with staffing, and other logistical matters.

Looking ahead, Lossman said she is very excited about the introduction of new menu items, along with the opportunities the store's now-central location will provide. She and the rest of the Juice Amour team are enthusiastic about hosting concerts or other events in conjunction with the green space across Merchant's Row, and being an accessible option when people come into town for other events, she said.

After a historic tenure, Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy announces he will not run for re-election in 2022

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In recent years, he co-wrote the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, which modified U.S. patent laws and increased protections of intellectual property, and presided over former president Trump's second impeachment trial as Senate president pro tempore.

Just this year, as current chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, Leahy has been at the forefront of drafting legislation that seeks to expand and protect voting rights, but the senator has also indicated his climbing frustrations with increasingly stubborn gridlock in Congress. Throughout this year, Republicans in the Senate have blocked this legislation in a series of filibusters.

Leahy announced his retirement in a news conference held in Montpelier's state capitol building, where he expressed his wish to make the initial statement from home. "It is time to pass the torch on to the next Vermonter who will carry on this work for our great state. It's time to come home," he said. "Representing you in Washington has been the greatest honor."

Following this announcement, Leahy delivered an emotional speech on the Senate floor, in which he revealed the extent of deliberation that went into his decision to retire. He expressed gratitude for the support of his wife Marcelle and his staff, also conveying that – over his 47-year tenure – his colleagues in the Senate have become like family members to him. The senator also expressed his pride in being able to fight for the state of Vermont in Congress.

"Here's the thing about the Senate. Here's where small states like Vermont have not just a seat at the table but a voice at the table," Leahy said.

Many of his remarks surrounding his decision to retire indicated that it was not one made lightly but that it was one made in favor of being home with Marcelle and his family in Vermont.

Leahy noted that the remaining year of his term will involve hard work toward a brighter future – a vision that has been a cornerstone of his platform since he first placed a bid for office. He noted his commitment to completing a dozen annual spending bills within his work in the Appropriations Committee.

Governor Phil Scott, a friend of Leahy, indicated his admiration for the senator on Twitter. "Sen. Leahy has committed his life to serving the people of VT, and he will be missed as one of our voices in Washington," reads a statement tweeted from the governor's official account.

Senator Bernie Sanders, who will become Vermont's senior senator following Leahy's retirement, joined in the praise of the senator's life-long work. "He leaves a unique legacy that will be impossible to match," Sanders said.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer echoed Scott and Sander's admiration, stating that Leahy has a nearly inimitable track record of defending his state. "He has been a guardian of Vermont and more rural states in the Senate, and has an unmatched fidelity to the Constitution and rule of law," Schumer said.

Schumer also noted his confidence that this seat vacated by Leahy will remain in Democratic hands – a claim bolstered by Vermont's solid status as a Democratic state. Some have speculated about the possibility of Scott placing a bid for the office, while others believe that strong candidates are US Representative Peter Welch (D-Vt.) or Democratic Lt. Gov. Molly Gray – who would be the first woman elected to the Senate from Vermont.

Vermont apple orchards wind down following an unusually long fall season

By EMILY HOGAN
Layout Editor

The annual apple-picking season — one that ran particularly long this fall — is winding down at apple orchards across Vermont. This year's season saw near-perfect weather conditions, with mid-October and early November still seeing warm enough temperatures for fruits to thrive, as well as a significant number of apple-pickers — enough for an extended season.

Sophia Rampone, marketing coordinator of Champlain Orchards, explained that the apple-picking season is split into three sections of early, mid and late season apples. The season begins in mid-August, when the early season apples are available to pick.

Late season apples are available from mid-October until the first fruit-killing frost, which is usually seen in early November, Rampone explained. At that point, the apple-picking season concludes, but that doesn't mean the orchards close.

"We actually stay open year-round as a wholesale business, farm market, and seasonal pick your own with a variety of tree fruits and berries," Rampone said.

Boyer Orchards, located on 25 acres in Monkton, Vt., saw a similarly long apple-picking season. Mark Boyer, co-owner of the orchard, speculated that the extended season is largely due to both an increase in tourism as well as warmer weather conditions.

"I think Covid has certainly changed that environment a little bit, in that people are more excited to get outdoors, to pick apples, and to be out there," Boyer said. Apple-picking is largely a pandemic-friendly activity, which has drawn many people to these orchards over the past couple of years.

Boyer also explained how the almost ideal weather conditions play a role in the extension of the apple-picking season. "Early on, we had the warm weather that tends to ripen them up size-wise, and we wait a little bit for some cold weather too to do a little bit of the coloring process," he said. Cold weather came at the perfect time this season.

The pick-your-own season, in which customers can come to the orchard and pick apples, along with other fruits, from the various trees, officially ended for Champlain Orchards in the second week of November because the orchard picked all the fruit.

> "This year's season saw near-perfect weather conditions ... as well as a significant number of apple-pickers"

"We had to harvest the apples so they didn't start to spoil on the tree in the weather," Rampone said.

She also mentioned that Champlain Orchards was able to harvest much more fruit this year.

"We ran out of good fruit to pick rather than good weather to pick it," Rampone said, noting that this is not typically the case.

Typical fall Vermont operations for Boyer Orchards also include maple sugaring, a process which Boyer mentioned has also seen significant differences in length over the past years due to changing weather.

"I certainly see some major swings there in temperature and changes to sugaring seasons, either lengthening them or shortening them in different years," he said.

With regard to weather, both the sugaring and apple-picking seasons have seen ideal weather conditions. Last year, Boyer noted that the orchard was open for all eight weeks from mid-August to the beginning of November. This year, despite a few rainy days, largely warm and clear weather has brought out many customers and helped supply an abundance of apples to pick.

Concluding operations involve first picking apples to harvest and then washing and sorting all of them into three "grade" categories: 1st grade apples sorted for resale, 2nd grade sold for utility and baking, and 3rd grade used for sweet and hard cider, as well as apple sauce and compost.

In preparation for the closing, Boyer Orchards prunes all their trees in November.

"The general consensus has been in the past to always prune through the wintertime," Boyer said. However, he has attributed higher efficiency with pruning earlier in the year.

As Boyer Orchards closes their season, Boyer has noticed that the cold temperatures in November have stunned the apples in some sections of the orchard for the following year.

"So there's kind of some early winter kill that we're seeing sometimes," he said. These drastic temperature swings of, at times, a 20 degree drop, have lightened up some of the apple trees in Boyer Orchards; however, the stunning of the apples has not put too big a dent in the 146 various apple varieties in the orchard.

Once the pick-your-own season closes for the orchards in the winter, the orchards begin to prepare the farm for the colder temperatures. "That ends up looking like winterizing irrigation systems, removing old trees to make room for nursery trees, installing underground drainage tile, digging up nursery trees in late November and plowing fields to prepare for Spring," Rampone said. Largely, however, orchards remain dormant until the first signs of the apple-blossom season in the spring.

RILEY BOARD/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A row of apple trees at Happy Valley Orchard in Middlebury, Vt.

THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

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The Middlebury Campus

Prioritize the well-being of students and staff over austerity

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus editorial board.

This year, we've editorialized on the urgent need for mental health services and staff wage increases, highlighting vast funding gaps in areas that should be the college's top priorities. Meanwhile, Middlebury is touting the unprecedented growth of its $1.5 billion dollar endowment, and the college has announced plans to draw only $55 million from the endowment this year. At 3.67% of the total endowment, this draw is $6 million less than the withdrawal last fiscal year.

To receive a school-wide email advertising our massive endowment growth when there has been no consequential action to put money into the areas that need it most feels frustrating at best and demoralizing at worst. To our community, and particularly those who do not understand the intricacies of donor-restricted funds, this messaging seems hypocritical and insensitive. In light of the college's announcement, we want to take this opportunity to ask the college to finance its values today rather than defaulting to austerity.

First, we ask that the Board of Trustees temporarily adjust the cap on the endowment draw from an average of roughly 5% to 7%. This adjustment could make a massive difference in the quality of life for community members, and we believe that this amount would still maintain the longevity of the endowment. A temporary spending adjustment of around 7% is in line with the annualized ten-year return of 7.4% as of 2018 and, in our opinion, would still ensure adequate financial funds for future generations, even with the possibility of a future period of declining growth and adjusting for some inflation. And, this spending is necessary to address funding inadequacies in key areas of the college.

During the 2001-02 school year, the college voted to temporarily increase the spending cap on the endowment to a high of 7.1% over the course of seven years to finance several building projects, such as Ross Commons, Atwater Commons, BiHall, the new library and athletic facilities. If the college can temporarily draw more from the endowment to fund building projects, then the college can most definitely draw from its endowment to support its students and staff.

> ...for students who require immediate mental health resources or staff who can barely support their families, it isn't just about their experience, but their survival as well.

In a Q&A posted on the Middlebury College website, the college claimed that "the option to raise spending from the endowment above the 5 percent ceiling once again represents a lever of last resort, taken only after measures to control costs have proven to be insufficient to balance our budget." While we understand the benefits of a balanced budget for financial sustainability, staff wages, mental health services, faculty and students are in dire need of funding. Financial security and prioritizing student and staff needs are not in opposition to each other. Drawing more from the endowment would allow us to both fund these essential needs while reducing our budget deficit.

Many justifications for conservative endowment spending point to the notion that future generations of Middlebury students depend on those funds, and that the college needs to be frugal with their spending during times of growth to compensate for times when the value of the endowment may fall. This is what administrators call intergenerational equity. We acknowledge and support the need to preserve the endowment to fund programs in the future, but drawing an additional 2% temporarily will not drastically erode the future wealth of the endowment given its typical level of return. Drawing these additional funds now is reasonable to address the current crises that the college needs to take care of.

Secondly, our community deserves consistent transparency regarding what endowment funds are being spent and when, especially since it has experienced such unprecedented and unforeseen growth. Though the college reports this information yearly in their audited financial statements, it is not accessible to anyone not well-versed in finance, and yearly endowment updates only scratch the surface. At the time of publication, the endowment overview page on the college website had not been updated since March of 2016. Gatekeeping information about Middlebury's finances in this way infringes upon the general Middlebury community's ability to hold the college accountable for its spending priorities.

In an October all-school email about the endowment increase, Vice President for Finance and Administration David Provost stated that "the majority of these funds are being directed back to our students in the form of financial aid, instructional support, and student services support." However, it remains unclear what form these supports will take or how much is being spent on them. We as students deserve intentional and clear communication regarding how our institution plans to use the additional funds afforded by endowment growth.

There are significant degrees of separation between the student experience and the Board of Trustees, who make decisions about tuition increases and the annual endowment draw. We understand that there are a couple students who advise certain Board committees, but we remain unsure to what degree the Board is aware of the situation on the ground at the college. We want to take a moment in this editorial to specifically address the Board: We're struggling; our staff and faculty are struggling; and our Middlebury experience is suffering because the institution that has sworn to support us has chosen stinginess instead of support.

It's also possible that the college cares about growing the endowment to keep up with peer institutions (the endowment at Bowdoin, a school with nearly a thousand fewer students than Middlebury, now stands at 2.72 billion) but we hope that the college's pride is never prioritized over our experience. For students who require immediate mental health resources or staff who can barely support their families, it isn't just about their experience, but their survival as well.

The college could, on the other hand, look to some other schools for inspiration regarding how to use their endowment growth to their community's advantage. Smith College, for example, opted to eliminate all student loans in exchange for grants. The chair of their Board of Trustees noted how "this is a bold and significant investment for Smith, one that reflects the college's commitment to its students and their futures."

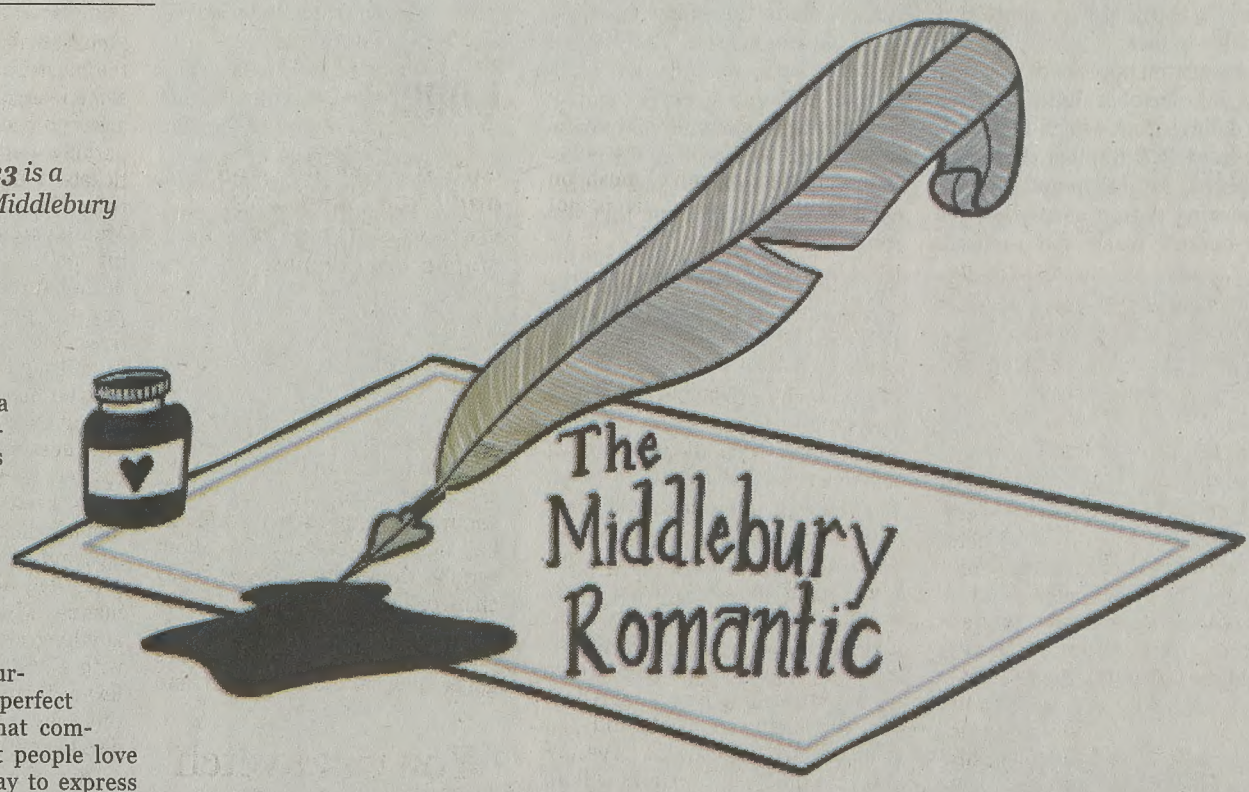
All in all, Middlebury has the ability to pay staff adequate wages — wages that could save staff from having to seek out a second or third source of income. The college has the ability to give raises to professors. And it has the ability to reform financial aid and mental health programs for students. But in order for Middlebury to do so, it needs to begin to prioritize the well-being of those who currently live and work at the college — even if it means drawing more from the endowment.

The Middlebury Romantic

A love letter to myself

Column

***Edyth Moldow '23** is a columnist for The Middlebury Campus.*



No, this is *not* a narcissistic confession. No, this is not intended to brag about the things that make me THE BEST. This is a call to action for you all to write one of these yourself: an ode to the imperfect pieces of yourself that comprise the whole that people love you for. This is a way to express gratitude for being here and for being who you are. Here goes...

I love the way you feared learning how to ride a "real bike" — the one with hand-breaks — and you rode down a mountain and flipped over the handlebars into that river. You scraped your knee so badly that you still have the scar, but that's when you learned what it's like to fail first. You found persistence somewhere in between that moment and your sixth grade math class, found it tucked into your leotard when you face planted on stage in the middle of your dance recital and in between guitar strings in your living room at age seven. You listened: listened to the way those failures made you feel, and, with scraped ego and scraped limbs, turned tears into laughter and laughter into trying that math problem once more, that turn once more, that song once more.

I love the way your jeans don't quite fit right around the top anymore. Thank you for looking in the mirror and no longer wishing your eyelashes were longer or your cheeks thinner or your forehead smaller because you look better without bangs. You look better without doing everything to make yourself appear thinner and prettier, trying and trying to escape that person you know would rather just show up as she is. You look better that way.

I love the way you let yourself cry when you're sad. Thank you for your vulnerability, for opening up to others when you're crying so hard that your cheeks get blotchy and you feel like you need to breathe into a paper bag. It shows that you care, and you care that you can care rather than feel nothing. Thank you for feeling the things that matter to you. They do.

I love the way you show the people close to you that they are important. You always do that. Whether you hide little notes, or make pancakes in the morning, thank you for showing love to others when they need you most. And perhaps more importantly, thank you for showing love when there's nothing special going on: no special occasion, no major panic, no birthday celebration. You value people and they know it — every day of the week and without question.

I love the way you show up and the way you work hard. You stay up late at night if that's what it takes to learn and demonstrate that progress. You go to class even when you don't feel your best, and you help the people that are relying on you to get things done: maybe a club reading books to local children or demonstrating ballet for a ballet teacher who can no longer lift her arm.

I used to hate the way I looked when I cried, and the way I felt after eating a french fry, and the way I couldn't solve math problems. Though these are only small pieces of myself, just little bits of the "me" I felt like I didn't know, they add up. They stack up until your perception of yourself is overruled by the things you hate. Once they stack high enough, you can't see through to the other side, the qualities of yourself that positively influence those around you. It's like a brick wall, and you can either climb it or remain dumbfounded by its immensity and opaque finality.

But this, after all, is a love letter. Don't get me wrong, I haven't gotten completely "better." I haven't figured out how to fully accept the parts of myself that don't meet my own standards and the standards of the world around me. But by writing a letter to the imperfect parts of myself, I am reminding myself that being hard on yourself — letting those failures overshadow your accomplishments — only gets you in a place of low self-worth, worry and fearfulness. I learned how to ride a bike. A real one. I learned how to ask for help in school. I practiced guitar until my fingers were indented, I did ballet until my feet bled, and I finally learned how to eat, for the first time in my life, the way I wanted to without worrying about how it would make me look.

It's a stupid thing to say, "Just love yourself." Enough of this "self-love" and "self-care" without real change. No skincare face mask replaces the need to drop our real masks and give ourselves the time to reflect on ourselves today, and in the past, and how much we have accomplished in getting from there to here — to now. Choose to actively love the things that you once hated by accepting they're there and learning how to grow from them. Affirmations are the first step, but self-love is rooted in action — difficult, real action — reflection, apologies, laboring, mourning. Find some reasons you love yourself. Most of all, love yourself for being here to love yourself. You should be valued, not just by others, but first, by yourself.

The listening role of college chaplains

Op-Ed

Danielle Stillman is an associate chaplain at the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life.

"Chaplain" is a funny title. It can conjure up images of a Christian pastor kneeling next to a fallen soldier at war or sitting by a sick person's bedside in a hospital — something you might see in a movie about a far-off time. Often, these are limited and outdated images.

Who exactly are the campus chaplains at Middlebury, and what do we do? We raise this question now because "College Chaplains" is one of the resources that is listed when tragedy strikes on campus or elsewhere in the world, and we are certainly all dealing with the repercussions of many such tragedies this semester. Yet we worry that the title "chaplain" itself may be a barrier to some people in utilizing us as a resource.

The college chaplains at Middlebury consist of three full-time chaplains who are trained in and practice three different religious traditions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. We also employ part-time affiliate chaplains in different Christian denominations including Congregationalist, Baptist and Catholic, as well as a Zen Buddhist chaplain.

We are first and foremost very good listeners to anyone who comes our way. We believe that listening — truly listening — is one of the most powerful ways to be with someone who is struggling.

However, we hope that our religious identities will not be another barrier to seeking us out. We are first and foremost very good listeners to anyone who comes our way. We believe that listening — truly listening — is one of the most powerful ways to be with someone who is struggling. And this is no small thing. We are equipped to be there in this listening capacity for anyone who wants it, regardless of their religious or non-religious background. We each work with students from any number of backgrounds. We are also equipped to work with people within the specific religions that we represent if that is desired. The content of our meetings with students is confidential unless there is imminent harm to self or others.

Our office space this interim year, The Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life at 46 South Street, is somewhat far from the center of campus. We welcome you there, but we are always willing to meet students closer to where they are. Please email or call to find a time to meet.

Saifa Hussain (she/her/hers), the Muslim Chaplain and Interfaith Advisor, can be reached at sthussain@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5983. Mark R. Orten (he/him/his), the Dean of Spiritual and Religious life and Chaplain of the College, can be reached at orten@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5886. Danielle Stillman (she/her/hers), Rabbi and Associate Chaplain can be reached at dastillman@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5762. Find the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life at go/scottcenter or in person at 46 South St.

In defense of Bread Loaf staff

Op-Ed

Jennifer Stratman *is the chef at the Bread Loaf dining hall.*

I've read all the write-ups in The Middlebury Campus about life up at Bread Loaf, and let me start by saying that we really do hear you. We take all of your feedback and requests very seriously. Just this week based on the requests submitted on Friday, you're getting whipped cream canisters to accompany your hot cocoa dispenser, a deep freezer filled with ice cream novelties, fresh grapefruit and a new variety of sushi from John.

What all the negative (and justified) write-ups have in common is they seem to completely omit how hard the staff up at Bread Loaf is working to make this place feel like home. Certainly, we cannot recreate the full undergraduate experience, and genuinely feel terrible for the feelings of isolation by all our students, especially the students of color who suffer these effects even under "normal" circumstances. But Bread Loaf's Residence Director Katie Burns, and Community Assistants Khasai Makhulo '23, and Sophia Lundberg, really have been working diligently to counteract this reality.

Karaoke nights with mock-tails, board game nights, hot apple cider & fireside s'more nights have all gone almost completely unattended. Every Monday night we show a movie on the big screens and actually showed dinnertime movies every Monday – Friday night for the entire month of October.

Last semester on the food truck I heard my students lament how much they missed being able to get pizza at Ross for any meal, and so we have scratch made pizza every Monday, and a hot homemade meal is served six nights a week. The one night is only omitted so that the staff up here can be guaranteed at least 1 night off a week, as just like all over campus, we are short staffed. The muffins baked fresh each morning by Mary Glidden from the catering department are made from scratch by me. There is no place else on campus that you can find our citrus carrot cake muffins, banana oat muffins, double berry muffins, etc. and we do that intentionally to show you we care.

If I didn't know these things and read the write-ups about life on Bread Loaf, I would have thought it was the failure of the staff up here, and so I felt I must say something. We love you, we hear you, and truly, we are doing our best. Your feelings are valid, and you have every right to say them, but if you wouldn't mind acknowledging us when doing so, it would show us that you value us and our feelings.

What all the negative (and justified) write-ups have in common is they seem to completely omit how hard the staff up at Bread Loaf is working to make this place feel like home.

Sex Panther: Arousal Nonconcordance

Column

Sex Panther *writes on all things sex, love and hookup-related at Middlebury.*

This semester has really flown by. I know everyone always says that, but I actually have no idea where it's gone. Feeling stressed and pulled in many directions seems to be a common theme among people I've talked to recently. Sometimes I have moments when it feels like my body and brain aren't on the same page; it can be incredibly frustrating and unfair.

Like if I really, really need to study for that chem exam, but my eyes are having a hard time staying open, or I have been thinking about having dinner with that funny girl from down the hall for days, but when I actually sit down, I'm so nervous I can't eat anything. These are perfect little examples of non-concordance: when our brain is telling us one thing and our body is doing another. It's usually not too big of a deal, maybe just slightly confusing or annoying.

It can be a much bigger deal, though, when it comes to sex. This can look like getting wet or getting an erection in a setting that shouldn't turn you on, or conversely it could be the sexiest moment of your life and your genitals won't respond. This is called arousal non-concordance. Number 1: This is incredibly normal. Number 2: Once again, this is incredibly normal. There is absolutely nothing wrong with you if you ever experience this disconnect. Number 3: It's important to take a step back and be thoughtful about what might be contributing to this non-concordance.

I like to think of pleasure and arousal as having two different parts: the accelerator and the brake. Things you like and find pleasurable push on the gas pedal, and things that don't feel awesome or are distracting might push on the brake. The hard part is not really being able to control these things. For example, no matter how hard you're pushing on the accelerator, if something's stuck on the break, no one is getting anywhere.

Although I obviously don't have a perfect answer as to how to seamlessly join your body and mind, I can give you a few tips:

1) **Familiarize yourself with things that give you pleasure, sexually and non-sexually:** like what outfit makes you feel awesome, your favorite foods, soft blankets, clean laundry and finishing that nagging assignment you've been putting off. But also, where you like being touched and not touched, what kinds of pressure you find enjoyable... These will all contribute to your accelerator!

2) **Try to keep tabs on the things that turn you off**. Again, sexually and non-sexually. Is there a paper looming over your head? Maybe a nagging injury, or worries about a friend. Underlying stress and discomfort are unfortunately everywhere here at Middlebury, and being aware of what's going on is important.

3) **Be honest with your partner(s).** Try to communicate how you are feeling and let them know how they might be able to help you. (I know that's a big statement but breaking it down into how they contribute to your accelerator and brake might help simplify it a bit.) Never feel like you have to hide or change the way you're feeling to make your partner(s) happy.

4) **Be kind to yourself. Sometimes there is no distinguishable rhyme or reason to how we feel.** Putting pressure on yourself to feel a certain way in a certain situation can be exhausting, and often ends up leaving you feeling confused and frustrated.

As usual, have fun and be safe Midd Kids! Remember safer sex supplies are always available at the Center for Health and Wellness. SPECS, MiddSafeand everyone at Parton is always here to help.

Kvetching about parking

Column

Nate Blumenthal '21.5 and Liam Hahn '21.5 *are columnists for The Middlebury Campus.*

We're two Jews and we like to complain. In our culture, we call it kvetching. You can kvetch about silly things, like cold Matzo ball soup. Or you can kvetch about serious things that should really change, like a total overhaul of the Proctor Dining Hall heating system. In this weekly column, we're going to try to keep it light and complain about the little things that, if changed, could make Midd students' lives just a bit easier. We'll leave the big issues to the Editorial Board and kvetch about the small ones.

You can kvetch about silly things ... or you can kvetch about serious things that should really change, like a total overhaul of the Proctor Dining Hall heating system.

Our first item for complaint is Middlebury's laughably frustrating and totally unnecessary parking ticket situation. With a $1.5 billion endowment, Middlebury has a lot of dough. Enough to bake a challah that would impress even the most discerning bubbe. But for some reason, it thinks that it needs a few thousand more from issuing parking permits to students and tickets to those who don't obey the rules. These two fellas think that Middlebury should get rid of parking permits altogether. After all, not all students have the means to pay for permits, and Middlebury doesn't need the measly shekels that permitting brings in. Now, it might be true that it's important to issue permits. Otherwise, a bunch of out of staters might come and park on campus for some reason. So if they really need to exist (like Cats the movie), they should be free, so that a permit is included in the $80,000 price tag that Middlebury commands. If I spent $80,000 a year on anything else, I bet it would come with a parking spot. Laurie's got a few of them at her mansion, and if this doesn't change I might just start parking my car there.

But the pain in our bumper doesn't stop there. Imagine this. You're walking up to your car after a long day in the classroom... Maybe you spent class looking out the window, or maybe you spent it wondering what it's like to be loved. No matter how you spent class, you're still heartbroken when you reach your car and see a little white slip of paper on your windshield. Maybe you parked in the wrong lot, or maybe you refused to get a parking permit because you were too awkward to ask your parents to buy a pass (they might say no anyways!) but too broke to do it yourself. That ticket is probably a whopping $50 dollars, oy vey! You might even be a mensch who paid for their parking ticket but still is getting ticketed because Middlebury doesn't have nearly enough good spots on campus this semester. So begs the question, why ticket at all? What happens if Middlebury stops ticketing? Is Rosh Hashanah canceled? Does Larry David die? No. Nothing in our community would change at all. In fact, there would be a lot more students with more money in their pockets. More money they could spend supporting businesses in the Middlebury community.

These administrators, in their infinite wisdom, bring back a couple hundred extra students to campus and decide that the already limited parking is going to magically accommodate all the extra students. Parking on campus is a privilege they say; there's enough spots in the CFA lot we're told (as if that's a viable option). Do you really expect a couple of washed-up old Jewish men in their last semester to schlep themselves and their groceries from the CFA to Atwater? What's a schmuck to do... all that Manischewitz gets heavy you know. The gall of these meshugganahs is overwhelming, they must be insane if they think that ticketing students who can't find a spot is a reasonable solution. They fight us with cowardice. They hit us with the ticket and don't even stay around long enough to schmooze over a bagel with some nice lox. We think it's time for the administration to be a mensch, give us a few extra spaces, and don't stick us with the bill. Do you really want to plague us with the unnecessary schvitz that accompanies an ice cold walk from the CFA at 2 a.m. after a long night of dedicated study in the Davis Library? No? We thought so.

These administrators, in their infinite wisdom, bring back a couple hundred extra students to campus and decide that the already limited parking is going to magically accommodate all the extra students.

Happy 200th, Dostoyevsky!

By JOHN VAALER
Staff Writer

After an incredible day of jeep-touring South Africa's Kruger National Park with my family, I went to a deckchair located on the balcony of the hotel where I was staying. My view overlooked a stunning panorama of the savanna. I pulled out the book I had started the day before, Fyodor Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment."

It only took a few minutes for the novel to grab my undivided attention. I was bewitched by Dostoyevsky's scampering, scuttling prose that transformed a paranoid, melodramatic story into something deeply tragic. I must have read at least a hundred pages that day.

After an hour of reading Dostoyevsky, I stopped when I saw giraffes and warthogs pace across the grassland. The mammals had completely escaped my mind.

This Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, was Dostoyevsky's 200th birthday. Although my favorite Russian author is Leo Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky is definitely the Russian whose fiendishly entertaining works are most relevant to our tumultuous times.

I love all of Dostoyevsky's major works, so picking a favorite one to review for the author's bicentennial is quite the challenge. But among these spectacular works, I want to talk about "The Possessed," Dostoyevksy's bleakest, most manic novel. Half conspiracy thriller with an equal dash of psychological horror and social satire, the novel (also titled "Demons" or "The Devils" depending on which translation you read) is the best work of fiction I have ever read about the complex issue of domestic terrorism. Dostoyevsky was in many ways quite the right-winger. After getting arrested by the Tsarist government for his involvement in the Petrashevsky Circle, a radical utopian socialist movement, the author served a five-year stint of hard labor and military service in Siberia. During his sentence, Dostoyevsky turned away from revolution and towards religious and social conservatism.

"The Possessed" is a screed against Dostoyevsky's old circles. In the novel, socialists, liberal democrats and armchair intellectuals all unwittingly assist a growing revolutionary terrorist organization.

But Dostoyevsky's greatest bugbear in "The Possessed" is the dangers of demagoguery. In the novel, four young men — with the unwitting help of several liberal-minded, wealthy patrons — form an expansive revolutionary terrorist cell in a sleepy, provincial Russian town. Of the group's four main members, only the pan-Slavist Ivan Shatov demonstrates even a slight interest in actual political theory or the plight of the working people. The rest of the cabal are opportunists in one way or another, using their revolutionary work for their own financial, egotistical or sexual gain.

The novel's most terrifying figures are the group's two leaders. One is the figurehead Nikolai Stavrogin, a former army officer with a history of violence. The other is Pyotr Verkhovensky, the son of Stepan, the town's most prominent liberal intellectual. Charming, warm and baby-faced, the younger Verkhovensky hides in plain sight by assisting the town's high-end ladies with civic gatherings such as poetry readings and luncheons.

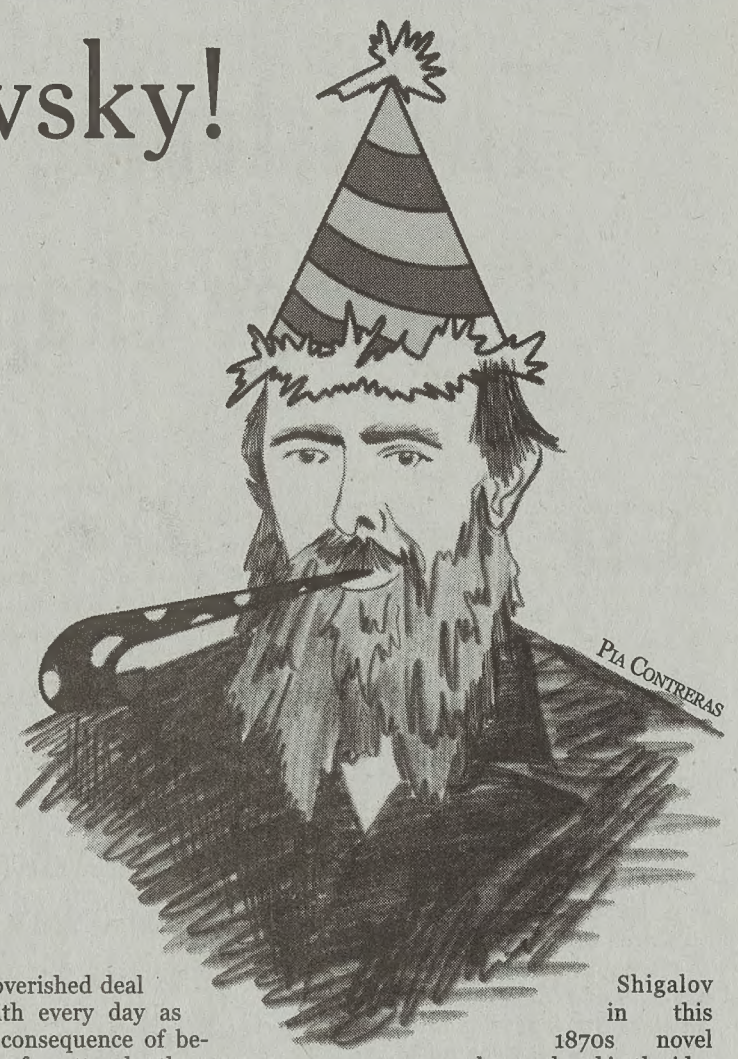
We learn pretty quickly that Verkhovensky is also a psychopath. He has little interest in communism's nuts and bolts, and the primary motive for the violence he inflicts onto the townspeople (and his own group) is his love of destruction and a messianic sexual obsession with Stavrogin.

Stavrogin's organization — despite being composed of some outright criminals such as former convict Fedka — is mostly made up of left-wing intellectuals. The organization starts out by orchestrating petty crimes to gain notoriety. But Verkhovensky eventually receives vague orders to escalate their actions. The novel's body count begins to climb when one prominent townswoman gets trampled by a mob, several of the revolutionaries commit suicide and Stavrogin's disabled wife is murdered in the middle of the night.

The climax of the novel is even more violent than its preceding acts. Verkhovensky creates a whisper-campaign against the Slavophile Shatov. The revolutionary eventually orchestrates Shatov's 's assassination as a means to unite the politically diverse group of moderates, internationalists and anarchists.

When the police start investigating and everything goes to hell for the terrorists, Verkhovensky quietly leaves town with ample funds he has acquired through his illegal activities. In a scene that would have had Karl Marx fuming, we last see the revolutionary mastermind getting invited to play bridge with fellow passengers on a first-class train to Saint Petersburg.

The possessed men of the novel are, obviously, communist revolutionaries, so some readers might interpret this novel as an indictment of the far left. I think this reading is understandable, but ultimately hard to defend. For one, the novel presents in full detail the struggles that the town's impoverished deal with every day as a consequence of being forgotten by the more conservative status quo. And Dostoyevsky makes it pretty clear that the revolutionaries' main flaws lie not in their political views, but in their lack of compassion and disregard for human life.


PIA CONTRERAS

Especially terrifying is the novel's prescience. A meeting where the syndicate tries to plan an ideological framework gets sidetracked by the mild-mannered Shigalov, who suggests that in order for their uprising to succeed on a national level, a significant chunk of Russians must be stripped of their civil rights.

You cannot read this book and not see a bit of Vladimir Lenin in Verkhovensky. But it is the proto-totalitarian convictions of the large-eared, seemingly irrelevant Shigalov in this 1870s novel later echoed in the ideologies of Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin which I find most chilling.

"The Possessed" is an entertaining portrayal of the complex relationship between political means and ends, a haunting indictment of unchecked idealism and a terrifying portrait of how a cult of personality is formed. For American readers, I especially recommend the book for the character Verkhovensky, a huckster who consistently disseminates lies that incite violence. Yes, the novel's antagonist is a socialist, but it would be wrong to conclude that because of this Verkhovensky somehow resembles Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez more than he does a certain Palm Beach resident.

Reel Critic: "Passing"

By ALEXANDRA BURNS
Staff Writer

COURTESY PHOTO

Is race just something we are all performing? This question is explored, though not exactly answered, in the most recent film in the Hirschfield International Film Series, "Passing."

Set in 1920s New York City, "Passing" is a black and white film adapted and directed by Rebecca Hall from Nella Larsen's 1929 novella of the same name. The film ruminates on colorism and identity politics through the story of Irene Redfield (Tessa Thompson) and Clare Kendry (Ruth Negga), two Black women, one of whom (Clare) is white passing.

The film opens on a hot day in the city. To escape the heat, Irene ducks into a hotel intended only for white patrons and runs into her childhood friend Clare, who now lives as a white woman and has married a white man. When the two return to Clare's room to catch up and order room service, Clare's racist husband John enters. He proceeds to make derogatory remarks about Black people, assuming he is in like-minded company. He jokingly remarks that he calls Clare a shortened version of the n-word because she's "been getting darker and darker every year [they've] been together."

The stress and suspense of the scene is heightened by the fact that Irene's face is barely visible, sheltered by the brim of her hat, unintentionally shrouding her skin color. The lighting choices are impeccable and the black and white cinematography brings into question the viewer's ability to discern race based solely on skin pigmentation. This sinister encounter in the hotel is Irene's only experience in passing as white, but in this moment, it becomes clear that both women are passing in John's eyes.

While the phenomenon of passing has present-day implications, it is imbued with historical understandings and definitions of race in America. The term passing was used between the 18th and 20th centuries in the U.S. to refer to mixed race people, often of both Black and white ancestry. Due to their light skin complexion or other physical traits, they were able to pass as white. Particularly in the South, this at one point meant the possibility of escaping life as a slave and later, the ability to breach the constraints of the Jim Crow era. Although passing created an opportunity to live a more free life, it also often came with shame and isolation from so cleanly cutting ties with one's community.

The body of passing literature and media has grown in recent years, and this film presents many similarities to Britt Bennett's 2020 bestseller "The Vanishing Half." Bennett's novel tells the story of identical twin sisters born in the 1940s in small-town Louisiana who go on to lead drastically different lives, as one of them marries a Black man and lives as a Black woman while the other lives as a white woman. "Passing" builds on this body of passing narratives, blurring the perceptions of performance, emotion and identity when it comes to the construction of race.

After the tense interaction with Clare's husband, Irene hastily leaves the hotel to return to her Harlem home. This complicates their relationship, leaving Clare longing to approximate herself again to Black people and Irene equal parts frustrated and confused. After writing to Irene without response, Clare shows up at her brownstone, distressed at her apparent rejection. Justified in her anger, Irene expresses the disgust she felt in John's company, causing Clare to burst into tears. This scene plays on the trope of white tears and white victimhood, though Clare is technically not white. Again, Hall sows another seed of doubt, asking us as viewers whether to pass is to become or only to play a part. In her assumed identity, Clare can cry when she feels threatened and expect the comforting of her Black female counterpart. Unsurprisingly, they make up.

Clare's arrival into Irene's life causes both internal and external turmoil which the storyline follows through changing seasons. Thompson and Negga are excellent in their roles and the anxieties they experience from the weight of Clare's secret are palpable. Clare's desire to partially reintegrate or at least to spectate the Black community of New York takes its toll on Irene, on whom much of the burden falls, both in inviting Clare back into that world and in holding onto her secret. Irene and her husband, Brian, bring Clare to a charity event for the Negro Welfare League, creating a stir as people fawn curiously over the white beauty the couple brought along.

Irene exhibits out-of-character slyness when she reveals Clare's secret to a white writer friend Hugh (Bill Camp). Upon hearing this, Hugh is prompted to ask Irene several questions, getting at the heart of the issues being raised. First, he wonders why, if Clare has successfully evaded her identity, she would come to an event with the very people she is trying so hard not to be. He then ponders why she would choose to live as a Black woman if she could pass as white, a notion that is both insulting and telling. Hugh, who considers himself an ally to the Black community, is grossly naive in assuming that to pass as white is a simple choice.

Hall's impetus to adapt and direct this story came from personal motives. She has been acting since she was a child and made her directorial debut in this film. Hall, like the characters in her movie, passes as white. Her mother is opera singer Maria Ewing, who was born in Detroit in 1950 to a white mother and a father of both African and European descent. Growing up, Ewing often passed as white because of her light complexion. Hall has spoken in interviews about the internalized legacy of shame that comes with passing both in her own family and more generally. "I think in any family that has a legacy of passing, it's very tricky, because, sadly, you inherit all of the shame and none of the pride," said Hall in an interview with The Guardian.

If you missed the Hirschfield screening, "Passing" is also available on Netflix.

Maneuvering the endless maze in "Hollow Knight"

By NICHOLAS JACCACI
Contributing Writer

Some of life's most interesting pleasures are those that are acquired. It could be riding a bike for the second time as you feel your confidence growing with fewer wobbles. Or cooking a new dish again, with fish that emerges hearty brown rather than coal black. Or it could be finally hearing the first budding echoes of that song you are learning on the guitar. For me, the video game "Hollow Knight" is one of those acquired pleasures.

The first time I played "Hollow Knight," I was lost, frustrated and generally confused as to where to go and why. So I quit. The second time I played, I was lost, frustrated and generally confused, but I was having a blast.

"Hollow Knight" was developed by Team Cherry for Microsoft Windows, macOS, Linux, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4 and Xbox One over the span of about a year and a half. It was initially released on Feb. 24, 2017. The player takes on the role of a nameless bug referred to as the Knight. The Knight arrives at the humble town of Dirtmouth, where houses and stores stand neglected in the ashes of time and only the pensive Elderbug remains. The Knight goes down a hole into Hollownest and the journey begins. What steps they take next, what challenges they rise to, what mysterious depths they delve to explore and what fellow bugs they help along the way are all up to the player.

The progression of the Knight, and thereby the player, is what the game builds. When the player first enters the Forgotten Crossroads and makes their way through this desolate kingdom, they have so few abilities at their disposal with which to dismantle enemies and maneuver the world. The player does not even have a map to guide their path forward. They just have the two stubs they call their feet and the nail they carry on their back as a sword to fight off foes.

On their journey, the player sees many paths that are impassable. A jump that is just ever so slightly too far to make. A path that is tantalizingly close, if it just was not for that pool of acid inconveniently in the way. A black, pulsating wall that pushes back any attempt to cross. All of these setbacks restrict the player to a single path. This restriction is what led me to quit the game the first time. But the second time, I managed to defeat the Mantis Lords and earned a power which allows the Knight to hold onto walls. With this newfound ability, the game opened itself up to entirely new routes, paths and fights.

The core of "Hollow Knight" is the repetition of exploring, fighting and growing. New obstacles offer players new and engaging ways to utilize their newfound skills. And in turn, those once insurmountable obstacles and fights can be overcome by the player with their newly awarded skills. Though the game has impeccable lore describing the history of the wyrm species and bug inhabitants in this now-plagued cavernous city, some of the best ambient music I have ever heard and genuine moments of anguish and levity, it was this core loop that kept me coming back, like a moth to a flame.

Sometimes, this strength became the game's greatest weakness. Within the game, I would often find myself at the end of a hallway and think, "Why am I here? Did I miss something again?" I would then pull up my map and see a room across the world that I had not discovered, only to discover that this path, too, was inaccessible.

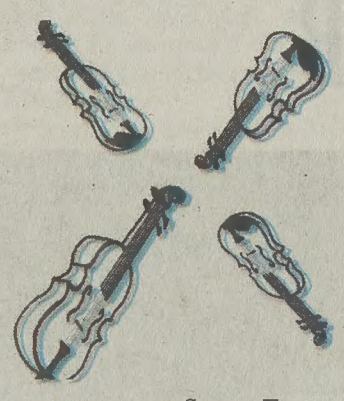
Much like an acquired taste, the challenge of reaching new territory only increased my desire to discover what lay beyond my reach. The difficulty made the end result all the sweeter. When I eventually made it there, it felt like closing a window full of tabs after a long research paper or finally sitting down after a long run. It's a feeling of relief that you knew was coming, that you had held in the back of your mind and that has finally arrived. This feeling came with each slight bit of progress, each small secret discovered or each bug squashed, and it only grew as I sunk deeper into this world.

The format of "Hollow Knight" is that of challenging difficulty, and one that the player may even need a break from occasionally. But because of the rewarding feeling it can provide through the exploration of the world and the growth of the Knight, it is well worth the wait.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Schumann Quartet and Pianist Diana Fanning's timeless ode to music

By EDYTH MOLDOW
Staff Writer



Sabrina Templeton

Applause. Deafening, thunderous applause resonated through Robinson Hall, as the crowd called for an encore. On Thursday, Nov. 11, the Middlebury Center for the Arts was graced by the presence of the Schumann Quartet and famous chamber musician and Middlebury affiliate artist Diana Fanning. The Schumann Quartet features siblings Erik and Ken Schumann on the violin, their brother Mark on the cello, and Liisa Randalu on the viola. The group stepped proudly onto the stage to perform in what they view as a metaphorical "dropping of masks, a true display of vulnerability."

"On the stage, all imitation disappears... then you can create a bond with the audience — communicate with it in music," a note from the Quartet in the program read. Over the course of the night, the quartet played three pieces: Felix Mendelssohn's Quartet in A Minor, Op. 13, Maurice Ravel's Quartet in F Major and, joined by Fanning, they played Robert Schumann's Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44.

"There is a reason that people want to hear Mendelssohn, Schumann and Ravel so many years after the music was composed. Their music communicates emotion and meaning at the deepest level," Fanning said. "People are hungry for beauty in this strange and terrible time we are living through, with Covid-19, political upheaval [and] climate change."

The three Schumann brothers have been playing together since early childhood. In 2012, they were joined by violist Randalu. "We take things to extremes, to see how far the excitement and our spontaneity takes us," said Ken Schumann.

The group does not attempt to categorize their sound, approach or style. Fanning has performed numerous times as a concerto soloist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, has toured New England as a member of the Ruggieri Chamber Soloists, has been a guest artist with multiple string quartets and now teaches piano at Middlebury.

Mendelssohn's Quartet in A Minor, Op. 13, was written in 1827, the year Beethoven died. The two events were no coincidence: Beethoven's influence over Mendelssohn's work was strongly evident in his work at and around that time. However, Mendelssohn had also fallen in love and decided to write a quartet about what being in love felt like for him. Prior to the publishing of this quartet, he had written a song called "Frage," or "Question," published as Op. 9, No. 1. The lyrics, "What I feel can only be understood by someone who feels it with me, and who will stay forever with me," are interwoven through the four movements. The Quartet's concert transported the crowd to a 19th century parlor. Their heartbeat-esque staccato made listeners' hearts beat in rhythm. Mendelssohn wrote an ode to love's beauty while the quartet members played an ode to their love of music.

"The Quartet's interpretation of the Mendelssohn Quartet in particular was revelatory. The musicianship, the extraordinary attention to detail, the insight and perception they brought to these works were astonishing," Fanning said. "[They] excel in understanding the style and communicating the soul in every piece they play, no matter who the composer is and what era the piece is from."

Ravel's Quartet in F Major was written in 1903 while Ravel was completing his studies at the Paris Conservatory. From the lyrical violin in the first movement to the "vif et agité" — or "lively and agitated" — tones of the third, the Schumann Quartet demonstrated the swiftness of time and its unending movement forward. Yet, during this piece, time seemed to slip away. They entranced listeners in a feeling of timeless emotion. Their playing sounded wistful, heart wrenching and contemplative.

The final piece, the Schumann Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44, was written by Robert Schumann in 1842 in only three weeks. This piece was meant as a gift for his wife, Clara, but she was too ill to play the debut of his new masterpiece. 180 years later, the Schumann Quartet and Fanning performed this very piece, bringing drama to the stage in a different sense; this quintet shows the love a husband had for his wife. The romance rang in every note, alternating between a certain sweetness in the onstage unity of the musicians and a vibrant conversation among instruments.

"I love the way they move in sync and look to each other for cues. This interaction brings so much emotion," Bess Gramling '23.5, who attended the concert, said.

"You don't have to know anything about classical music to let it wash over you and to enjoy it at the most basic level of beautiful melodies, dancing or driving rhythms, colorful sound effects and dramatic surprises," Fanning said. "Music is a language that everyone can understand."

"No One Is Forgotten" revels in fragmented information

Photo by Kayla Schwartz

"No One Is Forgotten" depicts captives Beng (Gabrielle Martin '21.5) and Lali (Meili Huang '23) through a series of fragmented vignettes.

By BEN BEESE
Staff Writer

Leave the elaborate set and extensive casts to faculty shows. Theses, in contrast, are the simpler, single-celled protozoa at the root of the theatrical tree of life. "No One is Forgotten," Gabrielle Martin's '21.5 acting thesis and Madison Middleton's '22.5 500-level work in directing, written by Winter Miller, revels in the power of this streamlined medium. The play opens with two assumed journalist captives in a concrete cell. Contrary to journalism's concise exposition, details in this play are provided only as frequently as the prisoners' oatmeal.

Central characters Beng (Gabrielle Martin) and Lali (Meili Huang '23) work abroad. Their job titles are never explicitly referenced in the play. Instead, the prisoners make off-hand references to mutual acquaintances, parties and work trips. These details color Beng and Lali's lives, but they are tangential to the intrigue of the play itself.

The play consists of a series of vignettes. "[It's] not a story that builds to a climax," Middleton said. "It ebbs and flows, ripples and crashes." Beng and Lali spend most of the show playing games: Hangman, yoga and their favorite: How would you rather die? A typical scene starts with casual jokes, like "What makes a pickle cool?" "Sunglasses." The scene ultimately falters on an unspoken thought and falls apart. Yelling, crying and physical altercations burst the light surface tension to reveal the chaos below.

Beng and Lali are difficult roles. What makes the characters interesting is rooted in what they suppress. What are they thinking as they imagine shopping for groceries? What comfort do they find in their endless lists of fruits and ways to die? In a figurative game of I Spy, Beng describes fear as "narrow... oblong... murky, gray." Lali parries with something "red, saw-toothed, jowly." She's describing rejection. The audience is left to guess what lies beneath this trivial word game.

Martin and Huang convincingly portray the haunted, suppressed characters and the masks those characters hide behind. Lali and Beng construct fictions to cope with their traumatic reality. They escape their prison through levity, games and the imagination that transforms their own urine into Greek-Californian chardonnay. Beng and Lali believe in these as much as the audience believes in Martin and Huangs' performances.

Martin's Beng is an insufferably upbeat character. She tries desperately to lighten Lali's spirits, even at the darkest moments. After one poorly-timed joke, Lali understandably accuses Beng of misreading her audience. Martin successfully brings humor and levity into each scene while simultaneously maintaining Beng's intense anxiety. One never gets the sense that the character is unaware of the reality of her situation. Rather, Martin's Beng rejects that reality in every possible way.

At times, it seems that Lali would rather Beng left her alone. Beng's games become more creative and demanding when Lali is at her lowest. Lali's self-delusions are of a different sort. She lies about her relationship with Beng. When Beng pretends to swim on the concrete floor, Lali eventually stops crying and joins her. When Lali is left alone for an extended series of scenes, she becomes visibly more anxious. She even enacts her own wake, just as Beng had asked. Her reliance on Beng shines through at its starkest in Beng's absence.

The heart of this performance is in moments like these, when the fictions falter. The jokes break off. The stage falls suddenly silent. Often, a scene will have no lines or movement. It's hard enough to deliver lines that convey the depth and complexity of these characters. It's even harder to do so without words. Martin and Huang were terrifying in their ability to sit during those empty scenes. The full force of unasked questions, unspoken thoughts and suppressed fears hits the audience. What's left when you're cut off from the world?

Miller wrote this play in response to the killing of journalists David Pearl and James Foley. She directed its 2019 premiere after the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. As a journalist herself, Miller wrote "In Darfur" (which premiered in 2007) after travelling to Sudan with the New York Times' Nicholas Kristof. "No One is Forgotten" is her ode to the dangers of journalism and humanitarian aid. Journalists are the eyes and ears of the world. When we lose them, we lose contact with the world. "No One is Forgotten" invites the audience to reflect on what we don't hear, what we don't see and what we don't know.

BEYOND THE PAGE BRINGS NEW POSSIBILITIES TO LEARNING THROUGH THEATRE

By JACQUELINE QIU
Contributing Writer

For decades, professional actors from the Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble have enriched liberal arts curricula and pedagogy at the Bread Loaf School of English by collaborating with faculty to connect theatre practice and performance to classroom learning. This initiative, aptly titled Beyond the Page, seeks to catalyze critical learning and dialogue in undergraduate classrooms at Middlebury College through theatre.

Beyond the Page seeks to revolutionize education by performing texts so that faculty and students can visualize, feel and embody what is written while also building community in the classroom. Through the use of theatrical techniques, professional actors and teaching artists urge students to take risks to engage with a piece of text in a creative, comprehensive way.

Beyond the Page hopes to create an academic environment based on experiential learning where students can make mistakes without judgment.

This dynamic program between the college and Bread Loaf is relatively new but is on the rise. Before its launch in March 2020, the idea for Beyond the Page had already been around for five years. The group was endowed with grants from the Department of English and American Literature, the Performing Arts Council, and the Office of the Provost. After its initial sessions, Beyond the Page hopes to establish a robust presence within the liberal arts curricula of Middlebury classrooms.

"This idea that was born out of Bread Loaf now is really becoming this collective vision of how we can start learning and being in community together," said 10-year Program Director Craig Maravich. "Students and faculty, especially new faculty who come to the table, are really hungry for these types of experiences that go beyond [the text]."

Maravich is proud of the positive reception that the group's unconventional work has received by both students and faculty. Within its first full year of operation Beyond the Page has almost tripled the amount of class visits and worked with approximately 300 students. Beyond the Page has visited classes in various departments, ranging from Assistant Professor of Anthology Kristy Bright's Ethnographic Research course to Associate Professor of Education Studies Tara Affolter's Culturally Responsive Pedagogy class.

At its core, Beyond the Page actively promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles in its creative process and intends to shift what education can mean, when accessibility is widened with respect to all student identities.

"Traditionally, the classroom has just catered to maybe one or two of the multitude of infinite ways that people can learn and take in information," said Program Associate of Beyond the Page Haley Schwartz. "We've found, especially over this past year, that a lot of practices that we incorporate have been inherently doing these DEI principles that the college has been interested in cultivating and creating various points of access for different ideas, whether it's hearing it or seeing it or speaking it."

"A lot of DEI work requires that folks [who] come from a dominant group to de-center themselves... Beyond the Page has been very mindful of how they interact with one another and how they help more people learn across axes of power differences," said Affolter, whose Models of Inclusive Education and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy classes have been visited by Beyond the Page.

Beyond the Page's pedagogical principles work in conjunction with the educational goals of faculty and the diverse identities of students, encouraging community-building.

A Beyond the Page workshop is anything but typical, but often begins with dynamic activity of movement. Maravich will often shout adjectives for everyone to portray within their bodies, such as "light," "heavy" or "angry," and eventually move to ideas found in the text of study. Such ideas can be as concrete as embodying a demon, when examining a text on madness, or as abstract as acting out time. Afterwards, all participants will reflect together on the activity at hand, encouraged by the faculty and teaching artists. After reflection, the movement and action begins anew.

Gina Zhang '23 believes that Beyond the Page's workshops gave her a new perspective on the book "Solibo Magnifique," taught in her Madness in Caribbean Literature French course.

"In this book there are a lot of power hierarchies. We had an activity of arranging chairs and tables to demonstrate this power hierarchy in our [own] ways. Some students sat on the tables, or knocked down the chairs," she said. "It reminded me of themes that I didn't really notice when reading the book, as well as a new way of engagement [with the text]."

Her classmate, Courtney Gantt '22 agreed that their French class found new ways to interpret the text through interactive acting and speaking exercises.

"The presenters from Beyond the Page were energetic and enthusiastic, and they constantly encouraged dialogue and discussion about how we were feeling and connections to the text," she said.

Gantt strongly encourages professors to integrate these sort of interdisciplinary workshops into their own courses.

For Beyond the Page, the community-bonding aspect of their work is as important as encouraging rigorous textual examination.

"There was a class where we kind of pushed them and they went there with us... Stories would come out among classmates that may not talk often in class, because of the work we're doing [and] how we're engaging the material, something arrives for the students," said Madison Middleton '22.5, a Beyond the Page teaching intern.

Student engagement is central to the work of Beyond the Page, alongside the intellectual rigor presented within the theatrical tools. Beyond the Page hopes to bring these foundational elements together, while facilitating greater dialogue about educational accessibility and inclusion.

DON'T MISS THIS

Hirschfield International Film Series: Beans

Twelve-year-old Beans is on the edge — torn between innocent childhood and delinquent adolescence; forced to grow up fast to become the tough Mohawk warrior she needs to be during the Indigenous uprising known as The Oka Crisis, which tore Quebec and Canada apart for 78 tense days in the summer of 1990.

Sat. 11/20 at 3 & 8 p.m. ET at Axinn and online. Free.

Gidion's Knot

Over the course of a parent-teacher conference, a grieving mother and an emotionally unsteady elementary school teacher have a volatile interaction about the tragic suicide of the mother's son, Gidion. As his story is slowly uncovered, the women deal with feelings of guilt and shock, culminating in a conclusion that neither wants to face. This project is the final performance of Ryan Kirby's 500-level independent project in directing. For mature audiences; adult content.

Thu. 11/18–Sat. 11/20 at 7:30 p.m., and Sat. 11/20 at 10 p.m. in the Hepburn Zoo. Tickets $5.

Middlebury College Orchestra Concert

The MCO is a full symphony orchestra that explores the exciting, dynamic repertoire for orchestra of the last two and a half centuries, from Bach and Mozart to Adams and Lutoslawski. Hear student musicians perform under the direction of Evan Bennett.

Sat. 11/20 at 7:30 p.m. ET at the MAC. Free.

FIELD HOCKEY ADVANCES TO NCAA FINAL FOUR, CHASES FOURTH-STRAIGHT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Field hockey threatens to score against Endicott in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 13. The Panthers won the game, 5–1.

By SOPHIE HILAND
Staff Writer

The past two weekends, the bleachers have overflowed at Peter Kohn field. Fans flocked to the field, in rain and shine, as the field hockey team took on opponents first in the NESCAC Championship and then in the NCAA Tournament.

At each game, alums, parents, students, professors and locals gathered, many with dogs in tow, to cheer for the undefeated and seemingly unstoppable Panthers.

Ranked No. 1 in NCAA Division III field hockey, Middlebury had the privilege of hosting the second and third rounds of the NCAA Tournament last weekend, playing Endicott (unranked) on Saturday and Tufts (No. 7) on Sunday. Field hockey earned a first-round playoff bye due to their record.

Over one hundred fans braved the cold and gray weather on Saturday to cheer as the Panthers went up against Endicott. While the rules of the game were a mystery to many spectators, parents and veterans of the sport filled them in, banding together in school spirit with a heavy dose of enthusiasm.

There was no confusion on the sidelines, however, when defender **Riley Marchin '22.5** scored her first career goal, the third of the game for the Panthers. After receiving the ball from **Katherine Lantzy '25**, who was on the far left of the circle, Marchin carried the ball into the circle and reverse swept the ball into the back of the goal.

Marchin, who has been a strong link in the Panther's dependable defensive line this season, described herself to The Campus as a "pass the ball to the people whose job it is to score goals" type-player. The team embraced Marchin as the sidelines went wild.

Her smile was visible from the bleachers as she pumped her fist in the air and ran to embrace goalie **Grace Harlan '22.5**.

The Panthers dominated play for the duration of the game with two more goals put on the board for the team by midfielder **Sadie LeStage '24**, who was assisted by **Lilly Branka '24.5**, and by three-time NESCAC Player of the Year, **Erin Nicholas '22**.

While the Panthers breezed through the game against the Gulls on Saturday, they put the crowd through an emotional rollercoaster on Sunday as they battled the Jumbos for a spot in the final four.

The Panthers didn't put up their first goal until there were just 3:59 minutes left in the first half, as **Audrey Lazar '23** finished off a play started by Nicholas. As the crowd grew, the Panthers took possession of the ball from the Jumbos and increased their shots on goal. **Grace Murphy '22.5** found her groove in the second half of the game, making a number of strong carries down the field and through the opponents. With 9:49 left on the clock, the Panthers were awarded a penalty stroke which Nicholas fired to the bottom left corner of the cage. The goal was her 24th of the season.

Over one hundred fans braved the cold and gray weather on Saturday to cheer as the Panthers went up against Endicott. While the rules of the game were a mystery to many spectators, parents and veterans of the sport filled them in, banding together in school spirit with a heavy dose of enthusiasm.

The Jumbos didn't record a single shot on goal all game, an unusual occurrence. **Charlotte Marks '23.5** and **Joan Vera '22** thwarted Tufts' offensive efforts as the match wore on, helping the Panthers add a 6th shutout to their record.

With the win, the Panthers are set to play Rowan University on Saturday in the final four. The match will be hosted by Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

If the team goes on to win the national championship, the seniors, **Danielle Brown '21.5**, **Isabel Chandler '21.5**, **Selin Everett '21.5** and Nicholas will have won four national titles, one for each season of their careers. It will be the third national championship for Joan Vera as well as Febs Harlan, Murphy, Hannah Sullivan and Marchin.

The NCAA Tournament National Championship Finals will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21 at Trinity College.

NESCAC AWARDS:

The 2021 NESCAC Field Hockey awards, which are voted by the coaches in the conference, were announced on Nov. 10. Of the four awards announced, three of them went to the Panthers.

Midfielder Erin Nicholas was named NESCAC Player of the Year for the third year in a row. Nicholas is the first NESCAC athlete to earn the award three seasons in a row. Nicholas was named NESCAC Rookie of the Year at the end of her first season in 2017.

Midfielder **Amy Griffin '24.5** was named Rookie of the Year with ten assists in conference play. The award was previously given to Katie George in 2019 and Erin Nicholas in 2017.

Coach Katharine DeLorenzo also made NESCAC history in earning the NESCAC Coach of the Year award for the fourth season in a row.

Four Panthers, Charlotte Marks, Katie George, Erin Nicholas and Isabel Chandler, were named to All-NESCAC teams.

Jordan Saint-Louis '24 helps propel men's soccer to Sweet 16 Round of NCAA Tournament

By JOSH ROSENSTEIN
Staff Writer

Men's soccer is still alive in the NCAA Division III tournament after advancing to the Sweet 16 this past Sunday. The Panthers defeated Franklin & Marshall 2–0, with sophomore forward Jordan Saint-Louis '24 scoring the game's second goal.

As the Panthers (12–4–3) formulate a gameplan for their next game, they will certainly depend on Saint-Louis, who leads the team with 19 points (7 goals, 5 assists) this season. His 16 points before the NCAA tournament ranked fourth in the NESCAC this year.

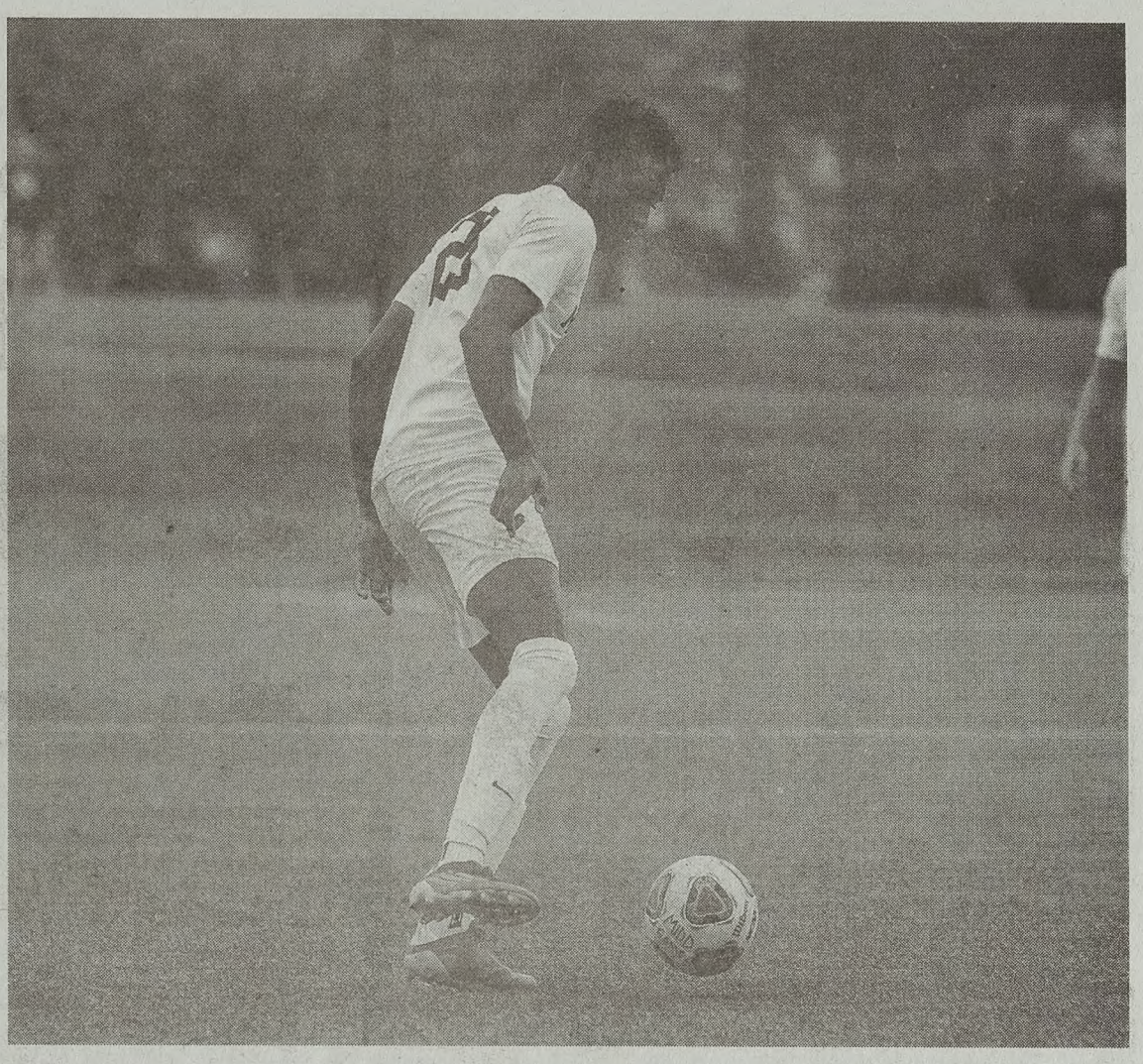
Saint-Louis recently earned recognition for his terrific season by being named to the All-NESCAC second team. Defender Michael McFarlane '22 was also named to the second team, while goalkeeper Ryan Grady '24 was named to the first team.

"It's nice to get the recognition," Saint-Louis said. "But it's not my focus, and I'd trade it to win the NESCAC tournament for sure."

Saint-Louis's focus on the team over himself is only one of many reasons that make him a special player. He is known for his one-on-one attacking skills and his creative ability going forward. Raffi Barsamian '22, a senior captain on the team, talked about Saint-Louis's skills on the field as well as his attitude and professionalism.

"He routinely makes the complex look simple," Barsamian said. "He never doubts himself, which makes everyone else feel confident in their own abilities."

Saint-Louis also cited the coaches, his teammates and the team culture as crucial elements of his success. His goal for the team is to win the NCAA tournament despite being underdogs. Men's soccer is set to play at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 against John Carroll University in Amherst, Mass.



Courtesy of Will Costello

Jordan Saint-Louis '24 (#23) has been pivotal to men's soccer this season, leading the team with 19 points (7g, 5a).

Cross country standout Bea Parr '25 garners All-NESCAC First-Team honors

Courtesy of Steve McLaughlin

Bea Parr '25 races to a seventh place finish in the 2021 NESCAC Championship.

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Staff Writer

Women's cross country booked its trip to the NCAA National Championship race last weekend, thanks to a stunning team performance and several key individual performances. One of those key performers was Bea Parr '25, a first year from Chicago, Ill. One of the major revelations of the season, Parr finished 16th in the mideast regional race, finishing the six-kilometer course in 22:44.5.

It didn't take long for Parr to establish herself as one of the standout stars in Middlebury's lineup, as she placed second in her inaugural college race. It was no surprise to see all-star runner Cassie Kearney '22 cross the line first, but Parr surprised the crowd with her incredible college debut.

Parr also finished second the following week at the Aldrich Invitational, helping the Panthers to their second consecutive win. In a tougher field at the Purple Valley Classic, Parr finished 13th and was yet again Middlebury's second finisher. The next week, Parr was Middlebury's top finisher in Kearney's absence at the Mike Woods Invitational, and then she finished 20th overall at the competitive Connecticut College Invitational.

Despite a number of key performances, Parr saved her most impressive result for the NESCAC Championship race. Finishing seventh in the conference, Parr was the first freshman to cross the line, beating Williams' Ella Ball by 18 seconds and earning NESCAC First-Team honors in the process. "It was also a really muddy and hilly course," Parr said. "So I'm really happy I was able to tough it out."

Given her impressive results, it is no surprise that Parr was sought after by a number of colleges prior to her commitment to Middlebury.

"There was something about this team," Parr said about the Panthers. "I really liked the team culture, and it seemed like everyone genuinely cared about each other, which wasn't always the vibe at some other schools. It's a really fun team to be on with great coaches."

Although now deeply devoted to cross country, it wasn't until the summer before her senior year of high school that Parr began to really consider collegiate running as a possibility.

"I only started running track during spring of my sophomore year, and then I started cross country in my junior year," Parr said. "I actually wasn't going to run in college until a friend of mine told me I should fill out recruiting forms."

Parr and the women's cross country team will compete for the NCAA National Championship in Louisville, KY on Saturday, Nov. 20, at 12:15 p.m.

Fall sports update: Panthers in the NCAA Tournament

By BLAISE SIEFER
Senior Sports Editor

This past weekend, six fall varsity teams competed in NCAA Tournament competition. Most squads traveled out of Vermont for their matches, although field hockey, thanks to their record, hosted other schools. From cross country to volleyball, here is how each team fared:

Men's cross country

On Saturday, men's cross country finished second out of 26 teams at NCAA Mideast Regionals, hosted at Harkness Memorial Park in Waterford, Conn. Zander Kessler '22.5 led the way for the Panthers, finishing seventh in the 8k contest. Teammates Drew Donahue '25 (11th), Alec Gironda '24 (12th) and Max Cluss '23 (13th) paced each other and finished shortly behind. Senior captain Quin McGaugh '22 (25th) rounded out the scoring for Middlebury.

Williams won the event (54 points) after their top runners finished in the top three places. Middlebury was shortly behind in second (68), followed by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (82) in third. Next Saturday, the Panthers will end their season with the NCAA Championship race in Louisville, Ky.

Women's cross country

Women's cross country also placed second at the NCAA Mideast Regional last Saturday. Cassie Kearney '22, who finished second overall with a 21:46 6k, led a strong team performance. First year Bea Parr '25 also placed well in 16th, as did Kate Kenny '23 (21st), Morgane Orcutt '25 (26th) and Nicole Johnson '22 (34th).

The women's team is also headed to the NCAA Championship race in Louisville next weekend, its last race of the season.

Field hockey

Field hockey hosted Tufts, Endicott and SUNY New Paltz this weekend for the second and third rounds of the NCAA Tournament. On Saturday, the Panthers faced Endicott, while Tufts and SUNY New Paltz squared off.

The Panthers opened the weekend strong, firing on all cylinders as it trumped Endicott, 5–1. Five different players scored for Middlebury: Amy Griffin '24, Katie George '23, Riley Marchin '22, Sadie Lestage '23 and Erin Nicholas '22. Marchin scored her first career goal, and Nicholas tallied her team-leading 23rd goal of the season.

On Sunday, the Panthers met Tufts in the regional final, the second head-to-head match of the season. From the get-go, the Panthers were resolute defensively, not allowing a single shot all game. Backed by this strong defensive performance, the Panthers were able to find two goals. At the 26-minute mark, Audrey Lazar '23 found the back of the net, and Erin Nicholas chipped in another goal for good measure in the final minutes of the game. With the win, field hockey has now won 47 straight games on Kohn Field.

The Panthers (20–0) will continue to fight for its fourth-straight national championship next Saturday, when they face Rowan in the national semifinals. On the other side of the bracket, Trinity College is set to play Johns Hopkins. With momentum on both sides of the ball, the Panthers will enter the final four with a great deal of confidence.

Men's soccer

Men's soccer traveled to Lancaster, Pa. for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament this past weekend. The team opened the tournament with a tilt against SUNY Oneonta on Saturday and faced Franklin & Marshall College in the second round on Sunday.

In Saturday's tightly-contested match, both teams created pressure on offense, registering a combined 32 shots. In the 87th minute, the Panthers finally broke the deadlock; Andrew Juarez '24.5 started the play, delicately finding Jordan Saint-Louis '24 who beat a defender and squared a pass in front of the goal to Shane Farrell '24. The midfielder punched the home game winner, his fourth goal of the season.

The Panthers faced the No. 4 team in the country, Franklin & Marshall the following day, winning 2–0. Middlebury opened the scoring 30 minutes into the match, as Ben Powers' '23.5 header met Casey Lund's '24 cross and sailed into the roof of the net. Just after half time, Jordan Saint-Louis doubled Middlebury's lead, scoring off an assist from Brendan Barry '22.5. Franklin and Marshall threatened with a penalty kick in the final minutes, but Ryan Grady '23 was equal to the task, saving the shot to maintain his clean sheet.

With the win, the Panthers (12–4–3) are off to the Sectional Semifinal round of the NCAA Tournament, where they will face John Carroll University on Friday, Nov. 19.

Women's soccer

Women's soccer traveled to Dallas, Pa. this past weekend for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament. The Panthers faced the University of Lynchburg on Saturday and Misericordia University on Sunday.

There was no shortage of action in Saturday's match against Lynchburg. The Panthers jumped out to a quick 2–0 lead, with Gretchen McGrath '21.5 and Eliza Robinson '21.5 both finding the back of the net. But towards the end of the second half, Lynchburg laid on the pressure and scored two goals in quick succession. The comeback wouldn't deter the Panthers, though; in the 87th minute, with the match tied 2–2, Ellie Bavier's '22.5 cross found Lucy Patton '25, who fired home the game-winning goal.

Advancing to the next round, the Panthers faced the host, Misericordia University, on Sunday. Misericordia, ranked No. 4, entered the match following an 11–0 win over Bryn Athyn on Saturday, chock-full of momentum. The hosts attacked the Panthers with force from the first whistle, scoring three times en route to a 3–0 win. Misericordia's sustained pressure helped them to a 23–14 advantage in shots and a 10–2 advantage in corner kicks.

Courtesy of John Kenny

After performing well at NCAA Regionals, top runners from men's and women's cross country are competing in the NCAA Championship race on Saturday, Nov. 20.

Volleyball

Volleyball traveled to Hoboken, N.J. this past weekend for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament. The Panthers won its first duel on Friday night, defeating Stevens Institute of Technology, 3–1, but weren't able to defeat no. 2 Trinity University (Texas) on Saturday, losing 0–3.

Maggie Wise '22, Gabbie O'Toole '25 and Kelly Ferrero '23 all contributed big performances this weekend. Wise and O'Toole were named to the All-Tournament Team of the Hoboken Regional Bracket. Despite the loss, the Panthers (21–6) have much to be proud of this season, earning its most wins in a season since 2012, the last time they made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

2021: A TRASH ODYSSEY

By ANNA HOHWÜ-CHRISTENSEN
Contributing Writer

Out of sight, out of mind. That's what most of us think about our garbage. But what really happens when we throw something away? And who are the people that help reduce our impact on the environment?

It's still dark outside when I head toward the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The streets are empty save a few workers and the odd student. A thin layer of frost covers the lawn. When I arrive, I'm promptly greeted by Supervisor of Waste Management Kimberly Bickham and truck drivers Phil Teer and Bill Geehan.

"MRF has four CDL (Commercial Driver's License) trucks," Kimberly says, as she hands me a fluorescent yellow safety vest.

I climb into the box truck with Bill, who shows me a long list of locations on his morning route sheet. 700 Exchange Street. The Marbleworks. Munroe. Centeno. Hesselgrave. 422 South Main. Axinn. Starr. Painter. The list goes on.

On an average day, the truck drivers clock in at 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. to collect trash, recyclables, compost and debris from all over the campus. They make multiple routes using several different vehicles, finishing their shifts at 3:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.. By the end of the day, they will have made a combined total of approximately 100 stops.

"It's a race to get everything done," Bill says, which is due to the additional difficulties of short staffing for an already time-sensitive job. The MRF is currently looking to hire a third driver, but truck drivers are in high demand, and the college doesn't offer competitive salaries, Bickham tells me when we meet later that week in her office. When Bill and I arrive at our first destination, an alumni residence, someone has forgotten to bring out their trash, so we quickly turn around and drive to the next location.

Garbage and recycling collection isn't just a stressful job that involves many occupational hazards. It also takes a great toll on the body. Bill hops out of the truck and walks down a steep driveway. There, he unlocks the door to a huge, dimly lit garage through which he moves several heavy rolling carts to the rear end of the vehicle.

"This is said to be the most physical job on campus," he says, as he hurls bag after bag into the cargo box.

Prior to taking up employment at the college two years ago, Bill worked for the city of Burlington. We talk for a while about his former interest in photography, and before I know it, it's time for me to go with Phil in the packard truck.

Phil is a life-long Vermonter who grew up in a family with three brothers in the town of Chittenden, Rutland County. He joined the MRF workforce almost five years ago after switching gears following a 44 year-long career as a diesel power technology instructor at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center.

"My wife would like me to retire," Phil admits, but he has been reluctant to give up work completely. With the amount of energy he has, I can certainly understand why.

At our first stop, Phil empties a big brown container into the hopper using a hydraulic lifting system. The last pieces of miscellaneous waste are dug out manually with a potato hook. The recyclables are then pulled in and crushed by the grinding jaws of the machine, which produces a sonic feast of ears-splitting, industrial noise. It's a satisfying sight of contained chaos.

After changing trucks at the MRF, Phil collects the Proctor Dining Hall trash and dumps it at the District Transfer Station (DTS), which is where items such as household chemicals, tires, light bulbs and oil filters are also transported. From here, the trash will travel to the landfill in Coventry, Vt. Recyclables, on the other hand, go to Rutland for waste sorting.

Under normal circumstances, the MRF runs its own sorting operation, in which bags are hand-processed and picked by staff. However, hand-sorting hasn't taken place since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in an effort to protect workers from virus exposure. This, in turn, caused the diversion rate to fall from 69% in 2019 to 45.4% in 2020 (the diversion rate for 2021 will be available in December). The number of MRF staff has decreased from eight to three.

Today, bags are examined from the outside by drivers, meaning if a bag of recyclables contains paper towels or is commingled in any other way, it gets directly discarded as trash. I can tell that this is something that really bothers Waste Management Supervisor Kimberly Bickham, who first came to Middlebury in 2008 to work as a truck driver. Before the pandemic hit, her goal was to achieve a 75% diversion rate. The biggest challenges of the job? "Cooperation from others," she says. "I believe if people really want to recycle, and want to make an effort, they do. There are some people that just truly don't care, and I think there is some of it that is just lack of experience and knowledge."

My odyssey with Phil ends with a visit to the college compost site, where I'm given a quick rundown of the MRF compost operation. It's a year-long process, which involves food waste being mixed in with grass, wood chips, and horse manure from the Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge. After months of decomposition and a subsequent sift through, the finished product is used on the college flower beds and athletic fields. This year, it has also been used to create topsoil.

Back at Middlebury I have a chat with Jason Dillenbeck, a custodial team liaison with a zen-like calm, who's currently filling in at the MRF. Jason opens the doors to the reuse trailers that are full of items that got abandoned by students during the early days of the pandemic. "Take whatever you want," he says. "Seriously?" I respond. Stepping into the reuse trailer is like stepping into a mini-Walmart. The shelves along the walls are packed with all kinds of things — irons, lamps, makeup mirrors, kettles, yoga mats, dishes, desk organizers, ski boots — all in perfectly usable condition, some of it unboxed or with the price tag still intact.

Out in the main hall, massive containers are filled to the brim with carpets, shoes and clothing that nobody wants. I find myself feeling overwhelmed by the flurry of stuff rather quickly. These items are stuck in limbo. Though I firmly believe that there are limits to what the individual can do in terms of solving a climate crisis caused by an impersonal structure, there is undeniably one important thing — if not the most important thing — that we all can and must do, and that is to radically reduce our consumption. I shuffle back to my residence hall carrying my box of miscellaneous goods, where I pull up my phone to cancel the kettle that I ordered online a few days ago.

The garbarge from Proctor gets dumped at the Addison County Waste Management District (ACWMD).

Students are welcome to come and help themselves to the items in the reuse trailers.

A piece of an industrial structure in the backyard.

A trash pile at the Addison County Waste Management District (ACWMD).

Bill Geehan (front), Kimberly Bickham (middle), and Phil Teer (back) briefly strategize.

A piece of an industrial structure in the backyard.

Phil in action.

Jason Dillenbeck in his office.

The box truck, also called the "204", is mostly used for curbside pickup.

Bill collects trash early in the morning.

A hook truck at the Material Recovery Facility.

Bill Geehan in front of the cube truck.

The view from inside the Material Recovery Facility.